
M. J. R. S.



PLANETES, &c.

Φανερον τοιουν ὡς ὅσαι μεν πολιτεῖαι το κοινῇ συμφερον σκοποῦ-
σιν, αἰναι μεν ορθαι τυγχανουσιν οὔσαι καλα το ἀπλως δικαιον.
Ὅσαι δε το σφέλερον μονον των αρχοντων, ἡμαρτημεναι πᾶσαι, και
παρεκβάσεις των ορθῶν πολιτειων· δεσποτικαι γαρ. ἡ δε πολις,
κοινωνια των ελευθερων ἐστίν. ARISTOTLE.

“It is evident then, that all those governments which
“have the common good in view, are rightly esta-
“blished, and strictly just, but those which have in
“view only the good of the rulers, are all founded
“on wrong principles, and are widely different from
“what a government ought to be, for they are tyranny
“over slaves, whereas a city is a community of free
“men.” ELLIS.

K. *Phileleutherus, Devoniensis, pseud.*

MEMOIRS
OF
PLANETES,
OR
A SKETCH
OF THE
LAWS AND MANNERS
OF
MAKAR.

BY
PHILELEUTHERUS DEVONIENSIS.

Ζηλοῦσι δ' ὅλως οὐ το παῖσιον, ἀλλὰ τ' αγαθον πάντες.

ARISTOTLE.

London:

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J. OWEN, PICCADILLY.

1795.

MEMOIRS

PLANNETS

SKETCH



LAWYERS

PHILIPPS & CO. LONDON

Printed by Philipps & Co. at the British Museum Press

1854

London

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PHILELEUTHERUS DEVONIENSIS

TO

THE READER.

WITH whatever degree of partiality I may view the form of government here presented to you, and how fondly soever I may imagine it, in the abstract, to be calculated to ensure the happiness of mankind, I am ready to allow that in the present institutions of society, philosophy has yet much to do to prepare the minds of men to receive it. The great mass of vice and misery which pervade the lower classes of people throughout most of the countries of Europe, must without doubt be considerably diminished before any change of government can be so introduced as not to

bring with it the evils of tumult and massacre; evils most fervently to be deprecated by every lover of justice and truth, but which, with sorrow does he perceive it, seem to be the inevitable result of a system of oppressive laws, and unceasing taxation. It is for this reason that every true Briton, every real friend of his country, must be anxious for such a reformation in the commons house of parliament as will restore to the people their just weight and power in the constitution: with this, we may hope for the blessings of peace, prosperity, and content; without it, we must expect the evils of anarchy, confusion, and discord. In our endeavours then to attain this desirable object, let us not be dismayed by the various obstacles every where thrown in our way by the interested and apostate. Calumnies and persecutions have ever been accumulated upon the reformers of mankind since the times of the statuary and the carpenter, but calumnies and persecutions so far from deterring the just man from a

steady adherence to his purpose, very frequently tend to accelerate the success of his endeavours: nor are his enemies insensible of this truth; they have recourse therefore to other weapons, and where they are too feeble to punish or imprison, they brand with the titles of visionary and theorist. But let us allow them the use of this favourite weapon. Is theory to be despised because not immediately reducible to practice? Reason, Newton, and philosophy answer in the negative; it is corruption and desperation only that vociferate the affirmative. “It is a well-known principle of morality, says Mr. Godwin, that he who proposes perfection to himself, though he will inevitably fall short of what he pursues, will make a more rapid progress than he who is contented to aim only at what is imperfect.” It is upon this principle that the Stoics formed their sage, and the Christians have their *perfect man*.^{*} This then, I

^{*} See an excellent note upon this subject in the sixth Remark of Melmoth's *Lælius*, where he presents the

hope, will suffice to vindicate what may appear theoretical in the following sheets; I say *appear*, because it is unknown to how great a degree of happiness mankind may approximate, when the exactions and oppressions under which they now labour are pruned away, and when governors have no temptation to consult their own interest in preference to that of the governed.

FAREWELL.

Dated amid the vice of London,

MARCH 16. 1795.

reader with the following quotation from Quintilian. Evenit nonnumquam ut aliquid grande inveniatur, qui semper querit quod *nimum est*.

4 N059



MEMOIRS
OF
PLANETES, &c.

CHAP. I.

TOWARDS the close of the eighteenth century I determined to leave my native soil upon a voyage of discovery, intending among other objects to explore the south and south-west coasts of New-Holland, and having visited the islands in the Pacific Ocean found out by Captain Cook, to trace the western coast of America. For this purpose I fitted out a brig of two hundred tons burthen, and set sail in the year 1794. The ship's company consisted of twenty men, beside the mate and surgeon. Nothing of consequence occurred till we reached the Cape of Good Hope, but in making the harbour the vessel struck, and carried

away her rudder. This was an unfortunate accident, as the weather began to grow squally, and a strong current was then setting to the south-east. As the wind did not cease for many days, and by our reckoning we had been carried at least four degrees from the Cape, I conferred with the mate, whether it were more advisable to attempt again to make the Cape, or bear away at once for New-Holland. He observed that the store of provisions was ample, and therefore was inclined to the latter. About a fortnight after this one of the sailors upon the mast-head called out—Land! It proved however to be an immense Ice-island, huge pieces of which we had frequently met with. This island lay to the north-east, and in order to keep clear of it we bore away to the south, but the atmosphere growing cold and hazy, and various masses of ice thickening upon us, there was great danger of the vessel being jammed between them. In addition to these circumstances, the mate came one morning into the cabin to tell me that the men began to murmur, and did not obey orders with the alacrity that could be desired. Fortunately on the next day we dis-

covered an opening through the ice, and in a few days arrived in somewhat a milder climate: still the murmurs of the seamen increased; they threw out broad hints that they thought me insane, and would no longer be made the tools of my romantic vagaries. It was in vain that the mate and myself harangued and expostulated with them; they had fixed their plan and only waited their opportunity. We had experienced so much bad weather during the last three weeks, that no observation could be made, but the sky now beginning to clear up, we had hopes of being soon enabled to find our situation. About sun-rise one morning, the mate being upon the look out, discovered land about four leagues a-head. This was agreeable news, and upon our approach I immediately ordered the boat out to sound the coast. At the depth of five fathoms the ship was brought to an anchor in a small bay, at the bottom of which I ordered two tents to be fixed, and the astronomical instruments, some fowling pieces, the medicine chest, and provisions, to be landed. I then went ashore myself with the mate.



CHAP. II.

IT was here that the sailors put their diabolical plot into execution ; I had proposed to the mate to ascend one of the highest cliffs in order to take a view of the country, and to do this we were compelled to make a circuit of three or four miles over very rough ground. Having with much difficulty arrived at the summit of one of the rocks, we were struck with the greatest astonishment at seeing the ship under full sail standing off to the north-west. I now blamed myself for disregarding the murmurs of the seamen. The complaints of the lower classes of people should always be listened to at their outset. If I had called a council of these men, said I, and permitted them to depute one of their number to lay their grievances before me, I should have been adored as their friend and benefactor, and not

left here to perish through want and misery. The poor mate, whose name was Lawrence, and who united to a strong judgment all the openness and sincerity that characterize the British sailor, agreed with me in my observation. I dare swear, Captain, said he, these fellows have left us some provision, and the orders you gave yesterday respecting one of the boats were punctually fulfilled, for if they have not carried it off with them, it is safe moored in a small creek at the northern extremity of the bay. Besides, Sir, your faithful companion, Mungo, is close at your heels. Poor fellow, said I, he is a better friend than the generality of those who call themselves Christians. I wish, returned Lawrence, you had been more careful in your choice of the ship's company; that rascal, Jack Ratlin, is the cause of all this evil: he had just escaped from Exeter gaol, where he had been committed for a burglary, when he entered into your service. True! my friend, said I, and I will venture to say that he learnt no good there. Our gaols, instead of being seminaries of repentance for the past, and amendment for the future, generally dis-

miss their wretched inhabitants in a tenfold degree more depraved than they found them.*

Our misfortunes were not a little increased by finding the spot on which we were banished to be a small island bounded by high rocks ; it appeared to be about twelve miles long, and four or five broad. We now began to descend the rock, and about midway, Lawrence, who had advanced somewhat before me, called out ; If my eyes don't deceive me I see a smoke in the east part of the island. I applied my telescope, and found it true. The first thought that occurred was, that it proceeded from the fire of some Indians, and perhaps Cannibals ; accordingly we quickened our pace, and soon after mid-day arrived at the spot whence we set out. Here to my great joy I found Lawrence's conjecture verified. One of the tents was left standing, with a hammock, part of the medicine chest and provisions, the boat, and a few kitchen utensils and other trifles, but the

* The Reader may find some good observations upon the above subject, in the 9th Chap. Part III. of *The Complaints of the Poor*, written by that indefatigable friend of man, GEORGE DYER.

astronomical apparatus was gone. We concurred in the necessity of putting ourselves instantly upon short allowance, and barricading our tent in the best manner possible, which we did by piling large stones all around it. Until this was completed we determined to sleep in the boat within a gun-shot of the tent, and alternately to keep watch four hours.



CHAP. III.

ON the third day after the ship's departure we set out to explore the island, each having a gun and a brace of pistols, and the dog Mungo carrying a bag with a few biscuits. We pursued the coast, which was exceedingly rocky, but here and there interspersed with fine sand. Oysters, lobsters, penguins and seals, presented themselves in abundance, there was little fear therefore of starving; and as to fresh water, if none were to be found in the middle of the island I meant to distil the sea water; this resolution was useless, as we afterwards found an excellent spring.

We had now gone somewhat more than ten miles, and judged ourselves near the spot whence the smoke had proceeded. Mungo was a considerable way before us, when on turning a sharp angle he suddenly dropt his bag, his tail stiffened, and he flew from our

sight with prodigious fury. I instantly hallooed to him, and ran up with all my speed. I found him standing with his paw upon the breast of an Indian boy, who appeared senseless. Directly opposite him was a cave in the rock, that seemed partly excavated by art and partly by nature. Lawrence had now come up, and with his assistance the Indian was speedily recovered. His fears seemed to have overcome him, and indeed this was a fortunate circumstance, for in all probability had he made any resistance, Mungo would have torn him in pieces. If the boy's astonishment at seeing us was not so great as might have been expected, we on our side were not a little surprised at his dress. Upon his head was a sort of turban, and round his body a shirt of the finest flannel I had ever seen; to this was added a pair of trousers which reached to his ancles, and his feet were covered with shoes of caoutchouc* laced up beneath the trousers. He

* This elastic resin, more known by the name of *India Rubber*, is the produce of South America, and among the various uses to which it is applied by the Indians, may be reckoned boots, which are impenetrable to water; bottles; flambeaux, that give a beautiful light, and

shewed signs of fear upon the approach of Mungo, but from this I soon relieved him by patting and stroaking the dog, and teaching him to do the same. He spoke to us in a language that we did not understand, and pointed to the cave. Here I was going to enter with him but he gently put me back with both his hands, crying out, Yan, yan-a-roo. In about a couple of minutes after he had entered the cave, he returned bringing with him a middle-aged woman of a respectable and solemn aspect, whom I guessed to be his mother. She had on a sort of cloak of a greenish colour, thrown loosely over her shoulders and tied with a net-work bandage about her body, under this was a garment that reached to her feet, of the same substance and fineness as the boy's, her shoes and turban were also similar. I now began to indulge the hope of being at no great distance from some civilized state, but my ignorance of their language was a great obstacle to every information. As we had no other provision with us than a few biscuits, I are inoffensive to the smell; and a kind of cloth.—For further particulars see the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

put my finger to my mouth intimating that I should be glad of some refreshment; the hint was understood, and our good hostess beckoned to us to follow her into the cave. I had forgot to mention that when she first saw us, she put some question to me in a tone and accent so different from those of the boy, that I immediately remarked to Lawrence; Certainly this is another language from what we have just heard. It appears so from the sound, returned he. The moment we spoke, the woman muttered something to the boy that ratified my opinion of having heard two distinct tongues. We had now entered the cave which was a large circular room, having a wood fire, and a chimney built of stone in the centre. Over the fire was an earthen vessel with boiling water, and the furniture consisted chiefly of earthen ware, a table, and some stools, or rather chairs without backs, of an unknown wood. In short every thing bespoke a condition superior to the generality of Indians, and I was just going to make some observation to my companion, when the woman put her finger upon her lips and whispered in a soft tone Doom! Doom! If any thing could tend to in-

crease my wonder it was this word, Doom! which I knew to be of eastern origin, and signified silence; but how it came to be used by an Indian in the middle of the southern ocean, and upon a barren island, was then beyond my comprehension. I religiously kept silence, but my curiosity was raised by her pointing to a little door in the cavern. All this time Mungo and the boy made friends of each other, much to the advantage of the former, who thereby got plenty of yams and bread-fruit. A groan as of one awaking from sleep, and which proceeded from the door above mentioned, now roused our attention. The good woman ran to the door, and after a few minutes conversation with some one within, led out a respectable old man, who immediately approached me, gently squeezed my hand and sat down by my side. In the mean time dinner was served up; it consisted of a large flat fish of the nature of turbot, a dish of yams, and some bread-fruit. The liquor was of a delicious flavour, not unlike weak mountain wine. The pleasure I took in the happiness of this small family, and the wonder how they came there, occupied so much of my thoughts that I had forgot it was

time to return. Lawrence however having suggested this, I pulled out my watch and found it to be near five o'clock. Neither of our hospitable friends took much notice of the watch, though the seal which had my arms and crest upon it attracted their observation. I now rose to depart, having first thanked the old man in the best manner I was able, and then taking the youth by one hand I pointed with the other to the western part of the island, as much as to ask him to return with us; he answered by shaking his head and looking at his mother, who replied with all the sympathy of natural affection by smiling in tears. I was unwilling for that time to press my suit, and having again shaken the boy's hand, and given him one of Mungo's paws, which made him laugh heartily, we departed. The youth followed us for some time, pleased with Mungo's carrying the wallet.

Our return was considerably shortened by ruminating upon the adventures of the day. It is a matter of much wonder to me, said I, how these Indians could come here, and what was their design in so doing; an old man, a wo-

man, and her son occupy a barren island in the midst of the great southern ocean, and what is more surprising shew no astonishment at strangers though of a different colour, dress and language; have no appendages at their nose or arms, and no baubles in their ears, dressed in the most becoming ease, and speak two languages. I am struck with equal wonder with yourself, said Lawrence, but it is my opinion that they belong to some fishermen, who perhaps are out at sea, and I am the more inclined to this belief, as I observed in a recess within the cave a large quantity of dried fish. Little Munna too (for thus the woman called the boy) though he looked at the guns for some time, yet what mostly engaged his attention were the letters upon the collar of the dog, these I am convinced he knew not what to make of, and his mother seemed equally surprised with himself. It is evident, I replied, that these people must have some communication with a civilized society, and I am determined if possible to find it out. I am heartily glad to hear it, Captain, returned Lawrence, and am willing to bear you company in such an undertaking

through the whole world. We were now arrived in sight of the tent, and having agreed to sleep on shore that night, determined upon an expedition round the south part of the island the next morning.

When the fact that the crew had left behind them Lawrence made a fire just outside the tent in order to boil some of the lobsters that we had picked up. I while he was engaged I took a ramble towards my spy-glass, and in the bright but hazy light of the setting sun, the clouds, the east. As soon as I reached the point of the bay I applied my glass through the whole horizon, and in the south-east quarter thought I perceived a sail. I continued viewing this object for near half an hour, and as it approached had no doubt of my conjecture being true; I could willingly have staid an hour longer upon this spot, but fearing that Lawrence would be alarmed at my absence, I hastened back to communicate to him the



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CHAP. IV.

WITH the fuel that the crew had left behind them Lawrence made a fire just outside the tent, in order to boil some of the lobsters that we had picked up on our return; and while he was engaged in this employment, I took a ramble towards the mouth of the bay, having my spy-glass in my hand. The moon shone bright, but the sky was full of light fleeting clouds, the wind blowing strong from the east. As soon as I had scrambled to the outer point of the bay I applied my glass through the whole horizon, and in the south-east quarter thought I perceived a sail. I continued viewing this object for near half an hour, and as it approached had no doubt of my conjecture being true; I could willingly have staid an hour longer upon this spot, but fearing that Lawrence would be alarmed at my absence, I hastened back to communicate to him the

intelligence. Upon approaching the tent a sound struck my ears which I knew not to be Lawrence's; this startled me not a little, and I crept softly towards the tent to learn the result, Mungo at the same time began to growl; but my fears instantly vanished upon the appearance of little Munna, who ran up with all speed, crying out Mungo! Mungo! The dog immediately recognized his young friend by jumping upon his shoulders. Glad as I was to see him, I thought it highly imprudent in him to venture such a distance by himself; however it was my duty to treat him with all the hospitality in my power. Recollecting that I had a ring set with stone, and a bunch of red feathers, I arranged the latter in a fanciful manner and placed them in his turban, at the same time putting the ring upon his finger, but I soon perceived that I had offended him, for without saying a word he laid them both upon the table. Surely, said I, this child teaches us an useful lesson not to make baubles so dear to us; what European of his years would not have thought himself happy in such a present? Every thing I see, said Lawrence, presents a new object of admiration. Munna has not

come unattended, but has brought with him a basket of fish and yams, and an earthen bottle of what he calls Ulla. We now sat down to supper, having added a dish of the ship's pease to our other fare, of which Munna ate heartily. We now began to prepare for bed, but there being only one hammock that we had spread upon some boards, I was at a loss how to accommodate my young friend. Whether or no he perceived my situation I know not, but taking Lawrence by the hand he led him out of the tent, and in about half an hour they both returned with two bundles of a species of weed, that they had gathered from the neighbouring rocks; it was dry, soft, and inoffensive to the smell. Of this Munna made himself a bed, adding the sail of our boat by way of covering, and wrapping some of it in a cloth for a pillow. Nor was Mungo forgot, for he made him a bed of the same materials by his side.



CHAP. V.

WE rose with the sun, and set out with our young companion and guide to make a tour of the other side of the island. Before this took place, Munna went to look at our boat, which he surveyed attentively; he then returned to the tent, and having examined the whole of its furniture and looked often at us, I saw that he was much at a loss how to account for our conveyance hither. In order to relieve his anxiety I led him towards the mouth of the bay, and first pointing to the north-west, and then to myself and Lawrence, and making as many other signs as suggested themselves at the moment, I gave him a tolerably good idea of the nature of our situation. Munna had a feeling heart, and seemed much affected with my dumb narrative. He warmly

pressed my hand, and while tears stood in his eyes gave me such a look of affection that I was at no loss to understand his meaning. Indeed it is to him and his family that I am indebted as well for my delivery from this island, as for the comforts that I received while its inhabitant. In our tour we found several more of those circular habitations, some cut out in the rock and others built of stone, but most of them at that time uninhabited. On approaching Munna's dwelling I was not a little surprised at seeing two vessels of about thirty tons burthen riding at anchor. Their structure was rather different from what I had been used to, having two short masts with each a large sail something between a lug and a shoulder-of-mutton sail. We had by this time reached our good hostess's, and perceived two middle-aged men of our own colour, though much tanned by the sun, standing near the door. Munna ran with great joy toward them, and they instantly came up and saluted us with great civility, their language however was unknown to me, except a very few words that appeared to be derived from the languages of the

East. We found our hostess surrounded with several new guests, all Indians except the two above mentioned ; and during our participation of her frugal table, Munna to the best of his power communicated the dumb intercourse he had had with me relative to the nature of my arrival. One of the white men, to whom I perceived some deference was paid, and whom they called Othono, appeared to me by the signs he made, and particularly by his frequently pointing to the north-west, to have seen our ship. Othono was tall and well made, and though much beaten by weather shewed a kind benevolent aspect ; I thought this therefore a favourable opportunity to make him acquainted, as well as nature could dictate, with my earnest wish to leave my present abode. For this purpose, as soon as dinner was over, I took him by the hand and led him towards the place where the two vessels lay at anchor, and made all the signs I was able, that we were unhappily left upon this island far from our native country, and wished to be conveyed to some civilized spot. The voice of nature was strong, and before I thought he could perfectly have understood me, this good man or-

dered four of the Indians to fetch my tent and luggage, and pointed to Lawrence to accompany them. Lawrence wanted no intimation from me, he obeyed the summons with pleasure.



CHAP. VI.

FROM my earliest years I had been exceedingly fond of learning languages, here necessity as well as inclination led me to be assiduous in my application to this subject. I took therefore the greatest pains to learn the name of every thing that presented itself to view, nor was Othono less eager to know my appellation of things. For the space of six hours did I employ myself in this manner, and from the readiness which every one shewed to assist me, acquired a decent vocabulary. My pocket-book which I never failed to carry about me was quite filled. Othono viewed the letters I made with attention, and I was also much surprised at seeing him write in a character perfectly new. Lawrence had now returned with our tent, boat, and luggage, which our friend ordered to be stowed on board one of the vessels, while our hammock was spread in a small

room in the cave. We went to rest early, and I was no sooner in my room, which was illuminated by a taper of caoutchouc, than I began to meditate seriously upon my past adventures and future prospects. I must be miserably deceived indeed, said I to Lawrence, if these people have any bad intentions against us; we are now going to put ourselves under their protection, totally ignorant whither they mean to carry us. So far, said Lawrence, from thinking they mean to do us any harm, we ought to be thankful that we have met with such a humane and sociable people; and as to where they purpose carrying us, at all events we cannot do better than leave this barren spot. I verily thought that when we were first left here, we must either have been starved to death, or torn in pieces by wild beasts; instead of these we have found the most hospitable treatment, and by what I can foresee, our future prospects are better than the present: but I confess, Captain, the whole matter appears to me a perfect mystery. I am indeed myself, Lawrence, much at a loss to account for the humane treatment that we have experienced. Without any of that stiff formality

that pervades every branch of European civilization, which almost withers humanity itself, by tending to render man a curse instead of a blessing to his fellow man, we meet with all that ease and freedom, which are the constant attendants upon innocence and contentment. At the same time we may be fully convinced by their dress and manners, by the order and regularity with which every thing is performed, the furniture of the dwelling, and the rigging and trim of the ships, that there is some civilized country at no great distance with which these people have communication. I verily believe it is as you say, replied Lawrence, but after all I shall be loath to part from little Munna, I heartily wish he could accompany us. I wish so too, Lawrence, but perhaps we may have some future opportunity of revisiting our young friend. We continued this sort of conversation till sleep overtook us, but the thoughts of our distance from Europe, and the uncertainty of our situation, disturbed much my repose with dreams. Methought I was placed in a garden enriched with abundance of beauteous flowers and choicest fruits. Upon examining them more attentively I found

myself almost totally unacquainted both with their names and nature, but thinking it advisable to attempt to transplant some of them into my native soil, I began to collect as many roots and seeds as I was able to carry. Among the various flowers that struck my fancy was one that seemed to surpass all the rest, it was of a variegated hue, one half being of a brilliant mixt colour, and the other of a delightful white, and diffused its peculiar fragrance through the whole garden; this I was determined to add to my collection; but judge my astonishment when I found it surrounded with innumerable thistles that seemed to have been set by the hand of art. Through these I resolutely forced my way, and carefully selected two or three of its finest roots. What with the joy I felt at the idea of transporting to my own country so valuable a plant, and the pain that originated from the thistles, I awoke. Early in the morning Munna knocked at the door, calling out Captain! I was already dressed, and immediately let him in. He was very sorrowful, and shook me tenderly by the hand; I was myself low in spirits, for the goodness of the boy's heart had rivetted him

in my affections. We began now to pack up our hammock and other trifles, and as Othono was waiting for us, and I thought that the shorter we were in taking leave the better, I comforted my little friend as well as I was able: I could not however think of parting from him without making him some compensation for the favours received from himself and family, having therefore brought myself to the resolution, I presented him with poor Mungo, and immediately went on board.



CHAP. VII.

THE wind blew fresh from the north, and our course, as I soon found, lay almost due east, a little inclined to the southward, and our rate of going was at least ten miles an hour. The crew consisted of Othono and two blacks, myself, and Lawrence. We had now sufficient time to examine the structure of the vessel. She was of great breadth upon deck, had a deep keel, and lay close in the water, which added to the shortness and consequent lightness of the masts, contributed much to her rate of going; but what pleased us most was a sort of elastic spring fastened to the main sheets, the use of which I apprehended to be this, that the increase or diminution of the wind's power might not be lost upon the action of the vessel.*

* The advantages that are likely to accrue from the use of shorter and lighter masts to shipping will, the

The accommodations were good. In our voyage we passed in sight of several islands, which I could with great pleasure have visited, but having put myself under the direction of Othono, I deemed it improper to alter his plan.

Author hopes, sooner or later be an object worthy the attention of the British Government. The Author has been informed that one of the English men of war, when under jury-masts, sailed faster than under her proper masts. But as this work is intended to blend together the *utile dulci*, it may not be amiss here to consider the inconveniences that attend the masts now in use. First. To counterbalance their great weight and height, the resistance of the ballast must be increased. This is so apparent when the ship heels that it is sometimes with great difficulty that she is restored to her equipoise. A circumstance which not only impedes her way, but endangers her loss. Secondly. A great part of the wind's force is lost by the height of the mast; for instead of communicating direct motion to the vessel (which it would do if the power were applied more centrically) it tends only to make her dip, and consequently lose her progressive motion. Thirdly. The ship's burthen is augmented, which is another reason for her way being impeded. On the contrary, by having shorter masts, the burthen of the ship is diminished, she heels less, and on that account may in proportion carry a greater quantity of sail, her progressive motion is increased, by the

On the sixth day soon after day-break land was discovered at a great distance; as we approached I perceived it to be a large tract of country, beautifully interspersed with hill and dale, and almost covered with villages and plantations. We entered a narrow streight, between two old castles, and in a few minutes my eyes were presented with a most charming view. Figure to yourself, reader, a large expanse of water covered with shipping, and bounded on both sides with lands in the highest state of cultivation. Suppose at the extremity of this expanse a superb and spacious city, built on a gently rising ground that pro-

more central application of the wind's power, the expense is less, and the loss more easily supplied. Nor is it probable that the single advantage of catching the higher breezes in calmy weather will counterbalance the advantages above mentioned. At all events it would be worth while to make a trial. Respecting the elastic spring little more need be said now than that it was the invention of FRANCIS HOPKINSON, Esq. of *Philadelphia*, who received for it the Magellanic gold medal. The Author thinks the invention valuable, but it has its inconveniences.—For further particulars, see a very useful work now publishing in numbers, entitled *The Repository of Arts and Manufactures*.

jected into the sea, and having in its centre a magnificent pile of building, whose lofty dome seemed towering to the clouds : you will then have a faint idea of the country and city of Makar. What then do you imagine must have been the joy of myself and Lawrence, who scarce a fortnight before thought ourselves doomed to misery and famine, and all at once as it were brought into the midst of happiness and plenty? Believe me it seemed all a dream, and I gazed with wonder and admiration.



CHAP. VIII.

OTHONO was well known, and frequently spoken to as we passed the shipping. The quays and wharfs extended both ways as far as my eye could reach, and on landing I was surprized to see the cleanliness and order with which they were kept. Othono conducted us through some spacious streets to his own house, which lay about half a mile from the landing-place. Here we were received by his worthy family with attention and respect. This family consisted of his wife; a woman of the most engaging manners, and of an excellent education, but unhappily much afflicted with disease, of two amiable daughters, and one son. For the first month of my residence my application was totally confined to their language, and at the end of this period I had made a very tolerable progress. I soon found that Othono was a man of very consi-

derable property, and was therefore the more reconciled at taking up my abode at his house, and indeed so far from his thinking myself and Lawrence a burthen, I was fully convinced that he was happy in our company ; but a fortunate occurrence tended to endear me to him for ever. His lady, whom he was doatingly fond of, continued for some time to labour under a bad state of health : this at length terminated in an intermittent fever that seemed to baffle the skill of her physician. I have already mentioned to my reader that I had carefully preserved part of the medicine chest, and having ever been partial to the study of physic, but through the perverseness and false modesty of those under whose direction I had been brought up, not permitted to practise it, I proposed one day to Othono to try my skill under the inspection of his physician. He listened to my proposal with attention, but shook his head, and observed, that he was unwilling to put his wife to any further torment, and that the physician whom he employed was of eminence in his profession. Will you then, said I, inform him of my proposal? He answered in the affirmative, and the next morn-

ing introduced to me a man of a very grave and respectable deportment, in whose face I could plainly observe the effects of study. He began with asking me several questions upon the nature of different diseases, and more particularly of the disease above mentioned. My answers gave him some degree of satisfaction. He then proceeded to examine the medicines that I had brought with me, the uses of which I clearly pointed out to him, as well as the remedies I meant to apply in the present instance. Upon this he turned to Othono, saying, I am satisfied, let this young man try his skill; possibly foreign medicines may be of service, when our native ones fail. Without troubling the reader with a recital of the various remedies I applied, suffice it to say that within the space of six days, my patient was pronounced in a fair way of recovery.



CHAP. IX.

OTHONO'S gratitude scarcely knew any bounds; I verily believe he would have given me half his property if I had chosen to accept it: but I told him that his persevering kindness and attention to me much more than counterbalanced my humble efforts; that knowledge and information were the only riches that I wished to acquire; that the happiness which I saw among all classes of people in that country; the almost total extinction of poverty, beggary, and vice; the great leniency and equality of their penal code, and particularly the utter abolition of the sanguinary and inhuman punishment of death; the facility with which every species of education, whether in arts, sciences, or manufactures, was acquired; the extreme cheapness of cloathing and provisions, with several other blessings exclusively enjoyed by the inhabitants of

Makar; these I told him were topics upon which I could dwell for ever with enthusiasm, and that the knowledge of that government from which such innumerable blessings could be derived, was of more value in my estimation than all the riches in the world. They are blessings indeed, said Othono, and have not been acquired without tumult, but we have now enjoyed them for so many years that the people think not of their value. Before you mentioned this your desire of becoming better acquainted with our government, it had all along been my intention, as soon as you had obtained a proficiency in our language, to introduce you to a venerable member of our Senate; a man, Planetes, whose purity of morals and uprightness of conduct can only be equalled by his judgment, experience, and sagacity. This character I will not blush to give him thro' fear of being accounted partial. Believe me, Planetes, my venerable friend, Euthus, is almost adored by his country. He was a great actor in the Revolution, and to him we are much indebted for our present liberty and happiness, by the extirpation of a system of tyranny. The only fault that you will find in Euthus is, that

you may perhaps think him too severe in his decisions. I have already mentioned you to him, and can assure you that he is very desirous of being made acquainted with you. He is eager to learn the manners and laws of your nation, the name of which neither he nor any one in this country have ever heard of. It was totally my fault that you were not introduced to each other sooner, but I determined that you should first become acquainted with our language. This amiable man, Planetes, will be the fittest person to satisfy all your inquiries respecting our manners and customs, and therefore upon that head I shall with pleasure leave you to him. I have myself, continued Othono, been brought up almost from my infancy in the mercantile line, and it is only four years ago that I quitted my profession. At the same time habit is so strong upon me that I am perpetually making some short voyages. I was upon an expedition of this sort when I first saw you, the great preserver of my happiness, to whom—— I will not permit you, said I, to proceed at this rate. Remember that if I had not met with you, in all probability I must have perished through want. But pray,

Othono, can you give me any information relative to that worthy family of Indians whom we found upon the island? Here I perceived that he was rather unwilling to solve my question, the qualities of his heart were offended at the most distant revelation of their own merit. His wife whom I shall henceforth call Clarina, and who had listened in mute attention to our discourse, now broke silence. Indeed, Planetes, I must inform you the whole truth. Othono first visited that island about five years ago, and finding it to abound in a variety of fish, proposed to found an Indian colony upon it, and provide the inhabitants with all the requisite materials for fishing. This he accomplished, but the island not being inhabitable in the winter months, on account of the boisterous weather and lying at a great distance to the west from all the other inhabited islands, he sends his colony every spring, and it returns in the latter end of autumn. Othono frequently visits the island, and I sometimes accompany him. The islanders bring their fish, which they cure and dry on the spot, to our market. I thanked Clarina for her information, and admired Othono's

goodness. But how comes it to pass, said I, that those poor Indians talk two languages, for both I and my friend Lawrence have persuaded ourselves that we heard two distinctly. Clarina smiled, and Othono replied, when you know us better, you will learn, that every nation, whether black or white, that traffics with us, brings up some if not all of its children to speak the Makar tongue with its own, and indeed it is now become a sort of universal language. A most excellent institution, said I, I wish our tardy Europeans would do likewise. We are always complaining of the want of an universal medium, but have not spirit enough to put it into execution.



CHAP. X.

THUS ended the present conversation, and soon after breakfast the next day, Othono came to my room leading Euthus in his hand. I am come, said Othono, according to my promise, to introduce to you my worthy friend Euthus, and if I mistake not you will neither of you be displeased with the other. If from the character I had received of Euthus I had not already been prepossessed in his favour, his appearance would have inspired respect and reverence. Euthus, who was something above the middle stature, was covered with the snow of years, and in the lines of his countenance I could plainly trace the effects of deep study and penetrating discernment, at the same time there was that gravity in his demeanour that brought to my mind the inflexible Cato. I began with thanking him for his kindness in thus visiting me, and that I must place it among

the many obligations that I lay under to my worthy host. Talk not, Planetes, of obligations, we are all human, we stand in need of the assistance of each other, and happy is the man to whose lot it falls to be of the greatest service to his fellow-creatures. Your observation, Euthus, is just, but surely you would not expunge gratitude from the human breast. We may be mindful, Planetes, of benefits conferred upon us, but remember that it is a duty to do good, and a virtuous man will neither expect nor desire thanks for performing his duty: the best reward that a good man can receive for his actions, is the reward of an approving mind. It is indeed true that in my younger days I have seen men receive public thanks from the State for performing very trivial services; but it was a proof of the corruption of the age; the generality of men must be bad indeed, when it is found necessary to return public thanks to the few that do their duty. Another evil attending these public thanks is, that they soon degenerate into the mere effusions of party zeal. It was in some measure from my view of things in this

light that I foretold the revolution that soon followed in our government; and I think my experience will authorize me in saying, that no government can long stand that praises its own partizans, while it either totally neglects or endeavours to disparage the merits of its opponents.* There is however, continued Euthus, this misfortune attending the actions of man, viz. that he no sooner escapes from one extreme than he runs into another. You will perhaps hardly give me credit when I tell you that the Makarians are so eager to reward merit, that no sooner does a man find any error, proved such before any of our committees, in their laws or government, than they enroll his name among the benefactors of his country. But I should be glad to know, Planetes, how you, who, according to Othono's account, are situated almost at our Antipodes, conduct yourselves in these matters. I assure you I

* Τοῦ (εφη Αντισθενος) τας πολεις απολλυσθαι, οταν μη δυναται τους φαυλους απο των σπουδαιων διακρινειν.

Then, said Antisthenes, do cities perish, when they can no longer distinguish the good from the bad. DIOG. LAERT.

expect much entertainment as well as much improvement from an account of your manners, laws, and history. By this direct accost I appeared not a little confused. I knew almost from my first arrival that the Makarians were nearly a century before us in civilization, and from what I had just heard I could have wished rather to receive a full account of the constitution and government of Makar, than enter into any particulars about my own. I was therefore at a loss how to proceed; but Euthus who perceived my confusion, very humanely relieved me by observing; Be under no fear, young man; if you have not yet made such progress in civilization as the Makarians, you should recollect that we are not arrived at perfection, but have several links in the great chain of human happiness to fill up; nor ought we to repine at this; nothing is stable that does not approach gradually to its consummation; to build an edifice that shall last for ages, it must be a work of time. Since then all governments are more or less imperfect, it is our duty to glean the virtues of each, and by applying them to our own country, endeavour

thereby to remedy its defects and increase its welfare. Without further ceremony then I shall hope, Planetes, you will grant my request.



CHAP. XI.

AFTER all necessary apologies for my youth and inexperience, I began with laying before him the great valour of my countrymen, even from the descent of Cæsar. The glorious victories of Crecy, and Poitiers, and Agincourt, and Blenheim, the siege of Valenciennes and defence of Gibraltar. I stated our renown in naval tactics, describing the bravery of Admiral Benbow, the battles of La Hogue, and the twelfth of April, and the first of June. I enlarged with great fervour upon the vast extent of the British territories; that the British empire itself consisted of the three kingdoms of England, Ireland, and Scotland, beside the Principality of Wales; that his Britannick Majesty continued in the possession of the Electorate of Hanover, his hereditary dominion; that this Electorate gave him great sway in the German empire; that the Britons pos-

sessed almost a continent in the East Indies, distant from us a diameter of the world ; that we had a vast empire in America and the West Indies ; that the British name was known even at Oczakow and Nootka Sound. I then reverted to William the Conqueror, shewed that he was a hero of prodigious valour, but I carefully concealed the bastardy of his birth. I next went through in a cursory way the succession of our kings ; magnified the vast advantages the barons had gained from John in the great charter ; skimmed over the history of the civil wars among the Yorkists and Lancastrians, and rested not till I came to the glorious reign of Elizabeth ; here I dwelt with enthusiasm upon the victory over the Spanish Armada, and doubted whether I admired more the virgin purity of the Queen, or the greatness of her understanding and love of justice. I then went on to the Revolution, and much admired the great condescension of William in accepting the crown. But I hope the reader will pardon my not proceeding further upon this subject. I cannot prevail upon myself so to hurt his feelings or my own modesty as to mention publicly the great and good

things that I said of all the Georges, particularly of the great patriot who now fills the throne.

The next topic that I adverted to was that eminent trait of benevolence, and high sense of honour that pervade all ranks of British subjects. Here I instanced the patriotic donations to the oppressed Poles, and subsidies to our worthy ally the King of Prussia. I alledged that it was owing to these our virtues that we voluntarily paid kings for defending their own dominions, that we had thereby incurred an immense debt that we should never be enabled to discharge, and that nations borrowed of us that had no idea of refunding. Before I concluded this topic I deemed it expedient to say a few words relative to the just and necessary war in which we were then and are now most happily engaged. This then I called a war of reason against insanity, of virtue against vice, of religion against atheism. I told Euthus that all the potentates in Christendom in the least renowned either for valour, power, or wealth, for the purity of their government, or the love which they inspired into their subjects, for their high sense of justice, piety and law, had

concentrated their forces against a nation consisting of the most execrable, detestable, impious, atheistical, hideous, sanguinary, obstreperous, tumultuous, vile, lawless, infernal, outcasts, cut-throats, murderers, robbers, plunderers, monsters, that ever polluted the face of the earth:* that the sun itself would soon forget to shine upon such complicated masses of deformity, depravity and sin; that they had either put to an ignominious death, or extirpated from their kingdom every person of probity and virtue; that though it had pleased the Disposer of events to give them hitherto the victory in the day of battle, yet that it was only to make their fall the heavier by a tempo-

* The enthusiastic reader may select a few more sublime appellations from the following :

_____ tatterdemalions,
 Scald-miserables, rascals and rascalions,
 Buffoons, dependants, parasites, toad-eaters,
 Knaves, sharpers, black-legs, palmers, coppers, cheaters,
 Scrubs, vagrants, beggars, mumpers, ragamuffins,
 Rogues, villains, bravos, desperados, ruffians,
 Thieves, robbers, cut-throats, &c.

ROLLIAD.

rary elevation,* and that I entertained just hopes that a prophecy of one of my countrymen would be verified, viz. that this nation would soon be a blank, in the map of Europe. Having gone through this, and a great deal more, much to my own satisfaction, I next proceeded to our laws.

* *Consuesse enim Deos immortales, quo gravius homines ex commutatione rerum doleant, quos pro scelere eorum ulcisci velint, his secundiore interdum res, et diuturniorem impunitatem concedere.* CÆSAR. B. G. Lib. I. Cap. XIV.

The immortal Gods are accustomed to grant a considerable degree of prosperity and a long impunity to wicked men, that they may feel their punishment the heavier by a change of circumstances.



CHAP. XH.

AND here the first thing that occurred, was what had occurred to a celebrated foreigner at a time when he resided in my country, viz. the frequency of capital punishments; but instead of looking upon it as "a melancholy truth," as a weak-nerved Judge† had once done, I magnified the great advantages that accrued therefrom to the more peaceable part of our society. Euthus, who till now had preserved the most becoming silence, here interrupted me by asking how many crimes were liable to be punished with death? I answered about

† It is *a melancholy truth*, that among the variety of actions which men are daily liable to commit, no less than an hundred and sixty have been declared by act of parliament to be felonies without benefit of clergy; or in other words, to be worthy of instant death. So dreadful a list, instead of diminishing, *increases* the number of offenders. BLACKSTONE, Vol. IV. Chap. I.

two hundred. My answer I perceived evidently astonished him. And are you certain, Planetes, of what you say? O yes! returned I, it is as true as that you are a Makarian, and I a Briton; I have seen ten or twelve hanged on one day with my own eyes. Nor ought he to wonder at the equality of punishment, for that there had existed upwards of two thousand years ago, a certain sect of philosophers who maintained that all crimes were equal, and therefore it followed of course that punishments should be so likewise. I now entered into an account of the names and nature of our different laws, but as it would be impertinent and useless to trouble my countrymen, of whose education this study makes a necessary part, I shall not repeat a tedious detail of burglaries, felonies, recognizances, certioraries, excise, bastardies, petit-larcenies, and black-acts. Neither shall I lay before them the manner how I enlarged upon the great benefits attending the amazing length of some of our law causes, the infinite number of our lawyers, or the refinements, forms, ceremonies, and fictions, with which those bulwarks of our constitution have strengthened the pillars of

the state. No! I will leave entirely to their own candour to suppose that I forgot neither writs, pleadings, or misnomers; detinues, trespasses, actions upon case; replications, surjoinders, rebutters, counts and bars; pones, sub-poenas, or qui-tams. Suffice it to say that after a nine hours speech of the historical and natural epitome of the laws; I concluded with observing that the laws themselves would occupy a space of five or six hundred folios, and that three lives of man were insufficient to procure a competent knowledge of their value, but that the study of the laws was so intoxicating that no man ever sat down to them without receiving pleasure and improvement. Lastly I proved that the quantity of law was calculated only to increase the liberty and security of the people.

I now told him that I was willing to proceed with the history of our constitution, but as it consisted of three parts, each in itself a whole, I thought it right to arrange my ideas into some method, and therefore if he pleased would delay it till to-morrow morning. To this proposal Euthus spontaneously assented.



CHAP. XIII.

WE were now called down to dinner, and tho' I was not at all fatigued with my labours, for who can possibly be fatigued with recounting the virtues of his country? yet I deemed it proper to comply with the rules of the house, and therefore obeyed the call. Euthus was remarkably reserved all dinner-time, which I attributed to the conviction I had produced upon his mind of the excellence of our laws, so that the same cause that effected his silence contributed to the exhilaration of my spirits. As soon as dinner was over, I returned to my apartment, and began to ponder upon the powers of my own eloquence that could produce conviction upon the mind of a total stranger of such acuteness and soundness of judgement; for I then concluded very naturally that as Euthus had not dissented from any thing I had asserted, nay!

had scarcely once opened his lips, so he must have been fully convinced of the rectitude of what I had advanced, and hence I judged that my former opinion concerning our laws, viz. that some trivial errors during the last ten centuries had crept into them, was erroneous. Emboldened by these considerations, I sat down with pleasure to draw up an epitome of our excellent constitution. But here a serious obstacle presented itself; I knew that almost all our great men had allowed, particularly when they were out of place, that it stood in need of reformation, and consequently in all probability was somewhat defective, but as I was unwilling to point out any of its defects, I thought it best to omit them altogether, and leave it to the sagacity of Euthus to find them out. With this resolution I drew up, and presented to Euthus the next morning the following sketch of the English constitution.



CHAP. XIV.

THE English constitution then consists of king, lords, and commons. In the king who is an hereditary monarch is vested the executive power, and it is from the stability of this power that many important advantages flow to the people. Among others the liberty they enjoy in assembling freely to deliver their sentiments on the abuses that may have crept into the constitution, and their right to petition for a remedy of those abuses; that although it is a maxim of the English law that the king can do no wrong, that is, that his person is inviolable, yet as he cannot act without ministers, ministers are made responsible for his actions; that the king has the prerogative of making war or peace, but that taxes the sinews of war, are lodged in the hands of the representatives of the people; that the king is the head of the courts of laws, and has the power of

remitting punishment to criminals; he is also head of the church; that though he has a share in making laws he is obliged to abide by them when made, that he is guided in all his actions by the advice of his privy council, that is, by some of the greatest men in the nation; and that he cannot keep a standing army without consent of parliament.

The House of Lords is a sort of mean between the king and commons, curbing by its rectitude and impartiality as well the violence of the latter as despotism of the former. I set forth that it is the great bulwark of the landed interest; that it is composed of the ablest, the most virtuous, and richest men in the kingdom; that it is the great point of honor to which the members of the lower house aspire as a reward to their merit; that part of their body is composed of the dignitaries of the church, men of the strictest morals, and chosen only on account of the eminent qualifications they possess to further the progress of religion and virtue, that these holy men being totally unbiassed in their opinions and generally acting together, tend wonderfully to maintain the balance of the

constitution,* and that on these accounts it has been thought proper to enrich them with large benefices: that another portion of this assembly consists of the judges of the law, chosen like the bishops on account of their superior knowledge and virtues; that all impeachments of state criminals are brought before this august house, and that from its decisions there lies no appeal; that lastly, by reason of the eminent services it has done the state, its honors are hereditary, which honors are in the gift of the king, who is unlimited in his use of them.

The House of Commons is the representative of the nation, chosen by the different counties into which the kingdom is divided, by certain towns, and by certain boroughs, has the immense prerogative of laying on taxes, and assists in making laws; that it is prorogued or dissolved at the will of the king; that the regular period of its power is seven years, but that it

* How ridiculous then does the following affirmation of the Duke of Argyle appear, "That the clergy in all ages have delivered up the rights and privileges of the people?"—SMOLLETT. Vol. 2. B. 1. Ch. x.

was formerly triennial, and before that annual; that each of its members must have certain qualifications in landed property; and in order to prevent undue influence, there are heavy penalties against bribery, and no peer or officer of the crown is allowed upon any account to interfere in elections; that this house is generally divided into parties variously denominated, such as ministry and opposition, court and country, tory and whig, aristocrats and republicans, &c. &c. but that each of these parties has no other view in its debates and disputations than the good of its country.

Such, Euthus, are the constituent parts of the English parliament, whose power is in all cases supreme, except that it can neither alter a fundamental principle of the constitution, nor "make a man a woman, or a woman a man *."

* "It is a fundamental principle with the English lawyers that parliament can do every thing, except making a woman a man, or a man a woman."

DE LOLME on the Constitution. Chap. x. in a note.



CHAP. XV.

IN addition to the above blessings, which the candid reader will undoubtedly conclude, from the nature of conversation, that I expatiated upon with much greater fulness than I have here represented, I observed that both houses of parliament were allowed the utmost freedom of debate, and that with respect to the nation at large, the liberty of the press was almost unbounded, but that the chief prop of the constitution was founded on the TRIAL by JURY. Here the genuine Briton will necessarily suppose that I left no argument untried that tended to enhance the value of this mode of judicial proceeding. I told Euthus that it was the greatest check we had upon the arbitrary proceedings of tyrannical kings, corrupt ministers, and profligate judges; that these men were so well aware of this circumstance, that several daring attempts had been made to

undermine this corner stone of our liberties. Juries had been packed ; sheriffs' books corrupted ; judges had summed up causes with partiality, and put their own arbitrary construction upon the written laws of the land ; and that the time was when juries had been punished with fine and imprisonment for delivering a verdict according to their consciences ; but that at present the rights of juries were so well known, that even supposing attornies could be found to commence, or judges to superintend prosecutions professedly against the rights of the people, juries were also to be found whose hearts would vibrate in unison with an approving audience, and whose tongues would utter, amidst a shower of applause, the verdict of their rights.

To conclude, I observed that a government composed of a well tempered mixture of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy had been for ages the admiration of the world, that two ancient philosophers of great eminence had written in its praise, and that a celebrated historian had treated it as a subject more worthy of admiration than likely to come to pass, adding at the same time that if ever it did

come to pass, its existence would be of short duration*. And indeed, said Euthus, fetching a deep sigh, I think the historian is in the right. Reader! have you ever seen a sportive school-boy whipping off the tops of the stately nettle? or have you ever been in a London mob, and spied a roguish hand pop from a baker's basket, pulling therein the periwig of some enraged wight? or lastly, have you ever seen a handsome beau tipped on the shoulder by the ugly bailiff? If you have, reader! you may form some inadequate judgment of the abasement, sur-

* Πολίτειαν δὲ ἀρίστην, τὴν μίλην ἐκ τῆς δημοκρατίας καὶ βασιλείας καὶ αὐτοκρατίας.—DIOG. LAERT. in ZENONE.

Statuo esse optimè constitutam Rempublicam quæ ex tribus generibus illis, Regali, Optimo, et Popolari, modicè confusa.—CIC. FRAGM. ut fertur.

Cunctas Nationes et Urbes, Populus aut Priores aut Singuli regunt. Delecta ex his et constituta Reipublicæ forma laudari facilius quam evenire; vel si evenit, haud diuturna esse potest.—TACIT. AN. lib. iv.

The two last quotations are taken from De Lolme; and to these may be added the following from Aristotle.

Εἰσὶ μὲν οὖν λεγούσιν ὡς δεῖ τὴν ἀρίστην πολιτείαν ἐξ ἀπασῶν εἶναι τῶν πολιτειῶν μεμιγμένην. And again; Βελτίον οὖν λεγούσιν εἶναι τοῖς πλείους μίγνυντες ἢ γὰρ ἐκ πλείονων συγχευμένη πολιτεία, βελτίον.

Politic. Lib. ii.

prize, and rage that pervaded my whole frame at this solitary remark of Euthus. Although I was satisfied that my abilities were insufficient to set forth our glorious constitution in its genuine colours, yet by the silent attention that Euthus had paid to every thing that I had advanced, I had buoyed myself up with the hopes of receiving his warmest applause; but alas! these hopes were all blasted.



CHAP. XVI.

I PERCEIVE, young man, said Euthus, that my answer has somewhat disconcerted you; perhaps you do not sufficiently understand my meaning. Let me explain myself. I believe it then morally impossible that a government consisting of three equal and distinct parts ever did, or ever can exist. For first with respect to your own, whenever any motion *of importance* is brought forward by the ministry, the two houses must either agree to it or disagree; if they agree, it appears to my mind to be a play upon words to call such a government mixt; and if they disagree, the wheels of government will be clogged. True! Euthus, but it is presumed that each house has the good of its country so much at heart, that it would of itself agree to the more material points, and yet be a powerful check upon all rash, improper, or unlawful measures. I willingly concede to you, Planetes, this inhibitory power, but in that

case your government becomes a monarchy under certain restraints. Now provided that these restraints are pure and effective, a circumstance which I may hereafter have occasion to discuss, I am ready to allow that such a government is best adapted of any to the present state of your nation: but this has little to do with the subject before us. Another reason then for my disbelief in the existence of a triple government is the following. From the whole tenor of history we may safely conclude that whenever two or three distinct powers arise in any state, each will be in perpetual struggle for mastery, and this mastery will inevitably be obtained either in secret or openly, by force of arms, or dint of bribery and corruption. In addition to the above I may observe, that neither the philosophers or historian whom you have cited meant by democracy any other than the *vivà voce* government of the people, nor did they dream of the representative system, such as yours is or ought to be, and which I esteem a vast improvement upon the other. But let us examine this matter a little more closely. You have said, *Planetes*, that your house of lords is a sort of check upon the other parts of

the constitution. Now without entering an inquiry into the nature and process of electing bishops, how can you reconcile such a declaration with the prerogative that the king possesses of creating peers at will? This single reflection, even allowing that the king uses his power in the most cautious and prudent manner possible, necessarily overthrows your argument. With regard to the lower house, I see so many proofs of its not always being the voice of the people, that I hesitate where to begin. The existence of such innumerable laws,* the immense burthen of your taxes, and the greatness of your national debt, to which I might add the dreadful consequences of these evils, viz. beggary, vice, and poverty, are sufficient proofs of themselves that all is not right; but pray, Planetes, let me ask you two questions: What is the cause of the constant opposition in the lower house, for constant it must be by the appellations that both parties give each other? and in what manner are the members for the boroughs returned? Here I hesitated, and was covered with confusion. Eu-

* *Corruptissimâ Republicâ plurimæ leges.*

TACIT. AN. LIB. III.

thus, with a severity upon his countenance that I had been totally unaccustomed to, immediately remarked; I tell you what, young man, though I rejoice at seeing the colour of virtue upon your cheeks, yet it is necessary that you should know, that the inhabitants of Makar are a plain honest people, and detest all shuffling and deceit; if you mean therefore to continue in my good opinion, you must act with candour and sincerity. Believe me, continued Euthus softening a little, a true lover of his country will rather endeavour to lay open the defects of its government in order to procure their abolition, than strive to conceal them; the confined flames, Planetes, burst forth with the greatest fury. Euthus! said I, let me intreat your forgiveness. I confess that many and great defects, allowed such by our best statesmen and philosophers, have crept into our constitution. I moreover confess that, from the violent opposition which every proposal of reform has hitherto met with even from those who had been previously esteemed its greatest advocates, I am inclined to believe that there is little hope of its ever taking place; I fear, Euthus, that the evil has

now increased beyond remedy; and this circumstance gives me the more uneasiness, because I am persuaded of the truth of your observation, that all things considered, the mixt government is the best adapted to the present state of my nation. Do not despair, Planetes, the voice of the people is no feeble voice, it must be attended to sooner or later. And now since you have confessed your error, I will no longer hurt your feelings by prying into the defects of your government, the nature of which I am but too sensible of, as well from the description that you have just given, as from the similarity between your ministry and our Schumalahs (that is, counsellors to the king) previous to the revolution; a concise account of which I will with pleasure now lay before you.



CHAP. XVII.

THE Makarians were originally under the dominion of Schums,* and during that period which lasted for many centuries, their history like almost all the histories of the world presents little more than a mere recital of various acts of oppression, corruption, and slaughter. The advice which one of our Schums had given his son, never to suffer the Makarians to remain long in peace, was religiously put in execution by his successors.† Pretexts

* The original meaning of the word *Schum* is *great* or *vast*, and in the sense here taken answers to our *King* or *Emperor*. Here it is proper to inform the reader, that in order not to alarm him by outlandish terms, I have for the most part, a few instances only excepted, presented him with these memoirs of Planetes in an English dress.

† Some of my readers may be surprized to hear that this “ was the dying injunction of Henry IV. He ad-

for war were never wanting. Friends, brothers and relatives were equally our enemies. To-day we should embrace as allies those whom to-morrow we should endeavour to destroy, and the soldier was led out a mere automaton to butcher his fellow creatures in cold blood. All this time philosophy the parent of freedom lay buried in obscurity, while ignorance the guardian of slavery and superstition made rapid strides throughout the nation. It was not however in the nature of things that her dominion could last for ever, and our learned men assert that there is a regular chain of causes by which civilized man arrives at perfection in government. From one and nearly the last link of this chain depends the state of Schums. The truth seems to be that man will not exert his powers without opposition; while the means of living are easy of attainment, he

vised his son, *never to let the English remain long in peace, which was apt to breed intestine commotions; but to employ them in foreign expeditions, by which the prince might acquire honour, the nobility in sharing his dangers might attach themselves to his person, and all the restless spirits find occupation for their inquietude.*"

V. Encyc. Britan.

does not much concern himself about his governors, but when these means are rendered difficult, owing perhaps to the nature of government by Schums, it is then that he opens his eyes, and inquires into the cause of the evils that surround him: in this inquiry he is aided by the first beams of philosophy, which soon brighten into mid-day and illumine him for ever. Thus it was with the inhabitants of Makar. Within the two last centuries had arisen several patriotic writers of abilities and virtues, and among others two of great eminence, who dared not only to expose to the people the defects of their own government, but freely to discuss the subject of government in general. These men became objects of detestation to our rulers, and in spite of their integrity and popularity were persecuted, condemned and executed. The severity of these measures destroyed their efficacy; it is true indeed that for a short period the spirit of the people seemed broken, but the seed of liberty was sown and the harvest was soon to be abundant.

But to proceed; the system of wars continued, and, upon every trifling advantage

gained, prayers and thanksgivings were offered up to Vishnou,* for having given us the victory in the day of battle, adding at the same time entreaties for a continuance of his all-powerful aid and protection: upon defeat, nothing was to be heard of but fasts and supplications. But supplications, fasts, thanksgivings, and prayers, had lost their effect upon the people. Those clouds of ignorance, superstition, and credulity, which had for so many ages hung over mankind, now began to be dissipated, and the nation was determined no longer to submit, without murmur, to that accumulation of misery and wretchedness which oppressed them, as well from iniquitous and sanguinary laws, as from overburthened taxation. They resolved, therefore, to enter a strict inquiry into the cause of that system of warfare in which they were constantly immersed; and to this inquiry they were urged by innumerable writers, who, fearless of prisons or punishment, which nevertheless

* Vishnou was the *name* then given by the Makarians to the Author of the Universe. He is now generally styled *the Supreme, the Unknown*. N. B. Vishnou was one of the names of Foe the Indian Divinity.

were profusely bestowed upon them, dared to publish to the world the wholesome dictates of truth and justice.

There is a proverb, Planetes, among the Makarians, that evils generally bring with them their remedies; this was soon to be verified. Our last Schum was a plain, simple, well-meaning, harmless man, but extremely unfortunate in the choice of his counsellors. These were for the most part men of boundless ambition; rash and intemperate in their undertakings; proud and insolent to those who thought differently from themselves; scorning openly to take advice, but secretly adopting the measures that they had pretended to despise; mock-patriots who at a time when their tongues were employed in speaking words of comfort to the nation, were engaging in measures that tended inevitably to augment its misery; men who bestowed without limit every place of profit, honor, or importance upon themselves, relatives, or friends, but persecuted without mercy those who had the resolution to oppose their proceedings. Such men were our last Schumalahs, and the chief of these, whose

name was Baltrolph, excited more odium than the rest from his having first brought himself into notice by a determined opposition to their measures, and steady support of the rights of the people. These men retained their power principally by means of a system of spies and informers, that would have disgraced a nation of Ourans.*

I was at this time a great favourite with the people, and consequently the chief object of resentment and hatred with the Schumalahs. Every term of reproach, every species of misrepresentation, were profusely heaped upon me, but misrepresentation and reproach frequently attack merit.† They had not yet dared to touch my person: in this their courage failed them. The truth is, that independently of the support and protection that I drew from

* The particulars relating to the Ourans have really escaped my memory, but I perfectly recollect it was a nation where spies and informers abounded, and where power was upheld by every species of corrupt influence; by bribes, contracts, jobs, salaries, pensions, places, perquisites, expectations; promises, alarms, threats, frowns, nods, winks, smiles, &c. &c.—PLANETES.

† *Ἀπείλαι δ' ἐσθλῶν αἰε*,—PINDAR.

the people, I had several powerful friends in higher life who seconded my endeavours to alleviate our sufferings. But here was the vulnerable part. The Schumalahs finding their efforts against me ineffectual, determined to lay siege to my friends; every weapon in their power was employed in the attack, and sorry am I to say that partly by bribery and promises, partly by alarms and fears, they carried their point, and several of those men in whom I had hitherto been accustomed to place the greatest confidence all at once deserted me and my cause. This event gave me at first considerable uneasiness, but I found consolation in reflecting on the justice of the cause in which I had engaged, and in considering that those few friends who still remained true to me, would on this account be the more steadfast and persevering. The sun's rays never burn more intensely than when converged to a focus.

Not to trouble you, Planetes, with a tedious narrative; a new war brought on a new and incredible load of taxes; provisions and cloathing were advanced in price; commerce was rapidly on the decline; misery and poverty

increased among the lower classes of men, and luxury and gluttony were not diminished among the higher. In short the passions of the people were inflamed to the highest pitch, and after every other method had failed of redressing their wrongs, they framed a remonstrance, drawn up with moderation and firmness, against the destructive measures of the Schumalahs, and deputed me to present it to the Schum himself. This being a step that was never taken but in times of the greatest difficulty and distress, the whole nation stood in anxious expectation of the event.



CHAP. XVIII.

I KNOW not how it is, continued Euthus, but when wicked men have arrived at a certain degree of depravity, they continue to plunge themselves deeper and deeper into error, until they are entirely overwhelmed. Instead of taking warning from these spirited proceedings of the people, and relaxing in the violence of their measures, the Schumalahs had the audacity or rather insanity to surround my house with a considerable body of the military, who hurried me instantly to prison. I asked the commanding officer upon what authority he warranted his conduct, but the only answer that I could obtain was, that he obeyed orders. The fury of the people was by these means kept under, and indeed had it not been so, I should have been the first to dissuade them from all tumult and violence. Reason and truth are

the only weapons with which I would encounter my adversaries, and fully am I assured that reason and truth are more powerful than the sword, the bayonet, or the gallows: indeed it has always been a favourite maxim with me, that we have no right in any case whatever, except self-defence, to put a fellow-creature to death. But more of this hereafter. Much time was not allowed me for deliberation upon which law of the land I was thus imprisoned, for very soon after commitment I was given to understand that an indictment for high treason was preparing to be brought against me by the chief Schumalah, Baltrolph, setting forth that I, not having the fear of Vishnou before my eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of Oonnanoo, did compass and imagine the death of my sovereign the Schum; and secondly, that I had levied war against my sovereign the Schum in his realm, by an attempt by intimidation and violence to force the repeal of law.* Though I was well aware of the frivolousness and

* I hope the candid reader will not accuse me of any discordance on account of my having rendered the above passage in words more familiarized to my ear. He may

wickedness of these accusations, and made no doubt that any upright judge would instantly and honourably acquit me; though I could prove by innumerable witnesses the domestic tranquillity of my whole life, and my professed enmity to every species of violence and bloodshed; yet I was ignorant to what degree of desperation my enemies might be driven: they knew equally with myself how much philosophy had illumined the understanding of the nation, and that the impaired edifice of the constitution without further investigation was in danger of falling and crushing them to atoms. Of this investigation I had myself been ever the strenuous advocate and promoter. It was an argument therefore with my opponents that if the leader were punished the followers would be intimidated. How futile are the expectations of man! How little is he prepared to avert those evils from himself, which he is planning for others! The rage of the people had increased almost to madness, and they

rest assured that the substance of the narrative of Euthus is faithfully recorded, and trivial defects it is hoped will be overlooked. N. B. Oonnanoo was the devil of the Makarians before the revolution.

called aloud upon the soldiery to join their cause; several of them immediately obeyed, and the nation was upon the verge of a civil war.

As soon as the Schumalahs found how matters went, they not only released me from prison, but deprecated my wrath with the most cringing servility. Arrogance indeed in prosperity, and meanness in adversity are the characteristics of base minds, and never was that truth better exemplified than in the present instance; but it was too late, and no longer in my power to stem the torrent. The convulsion increased; the greatest part of our rulers fell a sacrifice, and it was with the utmost difficulty that myself and friends upon our knees could preserve the life of the Schum himself. An annual allowance was afterwards granted him, and he retired to a private station, where he died of old age about fifteen years ago.

Like a phoenix just risen from its ashes, the people began to feel their mighty strength. The corruption of the state had been known hitherto only by its effects, it was now exposed to view in its most secret operations, the extent of which was inconceivable. But this is a topic,

Planetes, that it gives me pain to dwell upon ; I shall therefore hasten to subjects of more material consideration.

The revolution commenced ; the people with arms in their hands demanded a restitution of their rights, and that a new constitution should be founded upon those rights ; that hereditary distinctions and primogeniture systems should cease, and that a new code of laws should immediately be framed upon the rights of man ; they boldly asserted that it was unjust that they should pay for the extravagance of their ancestors, or servile compliance of their governors, and therefore insisted upon the abolition of taxes and national debt. They moreover declared their resolution not to lay down their arms until their demands were complied with.

This event I had long foreseen, and as it had ever been a favourite maxim with me, " never entirely nor at once to depart from antiquity," I had given those in power every possible warning of its approach, that by timely reformation they might have prevented it. I had proceeded too upon another principle. The immediate effects of a revolution in govern-

ment are generally disastrous, and even allowing the ultimate consequences to be general happiness, it is the part of a just man not to do evil that good may come. My admonition, as I have already mentioned, had been received with contempt; and the event which I had predicted having come to pass, it became my duty to render the evils attending that event as little felt as possible. Happy am I in being able to say that, the Schumalahs excepted, not a single life was lost.



CHAP. XIX.

THE people now proceeded to the choice of delegates of the several districts to form their new constitution. The first question that came before us was, whether the Makarian government should be a limited monarchy, or a representative republic? *

The advocate for the former began with observing, that he saw with concern the bias of the people to a republic, but was nevertheless convinced that they were as yet unprepared for such a change in their government: that a proper degree of veneration should be held for the sentiments and institutions of our ancestors, and that, when the abuses that had crept into our monarchy should be pruned away, and the responsibility of its

* Here again I beg leave to inform the reader, that for the sake of perspicuity, and to avoid a greater number of notes, I have used those words that best accord with his ideas and mine.

agents fully established, taxes would be speedily diminished, commerce recovered, and the people be rendered free, prosperous, and contented. He advised the house by no means to listen to the specious arguments of artful and designing men, who had no other object in view than to work upon the passions of the people, and thereby make them a step-ladder to their own exaltation. He observed that monarchy was best adapted to large states, which require vigour, union, and celerity in action; that it prevented the evils attendant upon ambition, and rewarded talents by affording them protection; that it nourished the polite arts; secured property, and encouraged obedience to law. That in a republic every thing was anarchy, confusion and inconstancy; where every one was master no one would obey; that the mass of the people being doomed by their situation to ignorance, would always be liable to the impositions of factious leaders, and even allowing that men of virtue would sometimes get the ascendancy, their virtue would be represented only as a mask, and they themselves fall under the suspicion of an endeavour to usurp the rights of the people; that

property would be rendered insecure; that laws would be broken with impunity; that the house of representatives would be divided, and that this division would inevitably engender civil wars; hence all the peace and prosperity of the country would be destroyed, and barbarism would ultimately ensue.



CHAP. XX.

TO this mode of reasoning it was objected on the other side, that monarchy was adapted only to the rude uncultivated state of mankind, when being but a little removed from the brute creation, they required a hero to lead them out to battle, and keep them from cutting their own throats at home; that man was now arrived at such a state of civilization, as to admire the blessings of peace, and hold all wars,* except those of self-defence, in just abhorrence, and therefore stood in need of no such hero or governor; that on this account monarchy was an evident usurpation upon the rights of the people; it was also an injustice to the indivi-

* Wars indeed are almost incompatible with the nature of republics.—See Godwin on Political Justice, B. V. Chap. xvi.

dual himself; * it was a school of pride, ignorance and falsehood; the monarch being required to do more than human powers enabled him, was obliged to use the eyes, ears, and understanding of others, whose services it was impossible to obtain without some recompense; that hence arose a cloud of evils too long and too well known to enumerate; that one of the greatest evils is, that the governors have a separate and distinct interest from the governed, and therefore in such an institution freedom has always a powerful foe to her advancement; virtue too and talents are obliged to give way to interest. As to the responsibility so much boasted of, it is and always has been a creature of the imagination. What successor to a minister will be eager to punish his predecessor, when he may hereafter tremble for the same fate himself? It has been argued that the nation is not in a fit state at present to change their form of government; monarchy surely is not the proper school to give

* This is true without insisting upon the observation of Aristotle, *Τὸν μὲν ἀρχὸν τὰ τέλειαν εἶναι δεῖ τὴν πόλιν ἀπελθόν.* Polit. Lib. i. That the governors should be perfect in moral virtue.

them the education required; in monarchy man is brought up even from his infancy a *subject*, that is, a slave, and can any thing be so absurd as to suppose that a monarch will either teach his subject himself, or suffer him to be taught by others, the true nature of subjection? Besides what an insult is it upon the understanding of mankind to tell them that they are born and must continue all their lives in a state of subjection, and that such a state is instituted for their happiness. Such argument is little more than a revival of the old exploded doctrine, "that some men even from their birth have a certain portion of gold and silver blended in their natures, while others who are destined to travel in the more humble walks of life, have only brass and iron."* But to leave the present topic, to tell men that they are unfitted to change their government, is nothing more than to tell them that they live in ignorance and deception, and unfit to receive the impressions of truth. Away with such stupidity. When the

* Φησι δὲ, τοῖς μὲν εὐθὺ γινόμενοις μίξαι (θεοῦ) χρυσόν, τοῖς δὲ, ἀργυρὸν· χαλκὸν δὲ καὶ σιδήρον τοῖς τεχνίταις μέλλουσιν εἶναι καὶ γεωργοῖς.—ARISTOT. Politic. Lib. ii.

advocates for monarchical power asserted that monarchy was best adapted to large states, they should have supported their assertion by strong arguments; the reverse appeared to be the fact; when unbiassed representatives were returned from all quarters of the nation, they certainly must have better information to proceed upon than a prejudiced and interested ministry.* It was said that monarchy prevented the evils of ambition; what ambition did it

* See some accurate reasoning upon these subjects towards the beginning of the second volume of Mr. Godwin's Inquiry concerning Political Justice; a work which for solidity and justness of argument is equalled by few, and surpassed by none; that it has defects cannot be denied, but it may safely be asserted that no unprejudiced person can sit down to an attentive perusal of it, and not rise up from that perusal wiser and better.

Ὡς δ' ὅπου μὴ μικρὰ πόλις, πολὺμικτοῦρον πλειονὰς μέλει χεῖν τῶν ἀρχῶν, καὶ ἰδημοκρατικώτερον· κοινοῖτερον γὰρ, καθάπερ εἶπομεν, καὶ καλλίον ἐκαστὸν ἀποβλεῖναι ὑπὸ τῶν αὐτῶν, καὶ θαττόν.—ARISTOT. Polit. Lib. ii.

So that where a state is large it is more politic and more popular that a greater number of persons should be admitted to share in the government; for this is more for the common benefit, and thus every thing is done better and with greater speed.

prevent? It prevented that just ambition which virtue and talents had to distinguish themselves, by raising themselves to their proper level in society; but it may be asked, did not monarchy give encouragement to the worst of ambitions, the ambition of being distinguished by the smiles of those in power? But monarchy fostered the polite arts! It fostered the arts of intrigue, cunning, and dissimulation, and annihilated the manly virtue of sincerity: in monarchy a man was every body's, even his enemy's, obedient humble servant, in a republic, his friend or fellow citizen. But a well regulated republic had not only the negative qualification of being exempt from the above evils, to which indeed might be added others of equal or greater importance, those of oppressive laws, and overburthened taxes, but it was the nurse of freedom, justice, courage, science and truth; it called forth the latent energy of mind in the obscurest individual; it gave encouragement to virtue and talents; it suffered not corruption to creep into it, and consequently was always in its youth and prime. It could scarcely be denied that all the errors attributed to a republic originated from the igno-

rance of the people, that it was the interest of monarchy, and its attendant aristocracy to cherish this ignorance, and that the moment this darkness was removed by the light of philosophy, the perfectibility of man in moral and intellectual endowments would become apparent ; having no longer the false glare of riches and titles to mislead him, he would learn to love truth, and submit his actions to her dictates.* A republic tended to remove all these obstacles to the happiness of its citizens, and in short by teaching them to know and value themselves, it taught them also to know and value their country.†

* The road to the improvement of mankind is in the utmost degree simple, to speak and act the truth.—Godwin. Vol. II. B. V. Chap. xiv.

† “ To make us love our country, our country ought to be lovely.”—Burke’s Reflections.



CHAP. XXI.

THESE, Planetes, were the chief arguments that I at present recollect to have been used in that important debate, and the question of a republic being put was carried by a considerable majority. A committee was instantly appointed to draw up a plan best adapted to the circumstances of the country, and the following, after a proper interval, being reported, passed unanimously.

Here I deem it necessary to inform the reader, that the above narrative of Euthus did not pass without frequent interruptions, but I have thought it best to deliver it rather as one continued discourse, than in a broken and disjointed manner. The same method I mean to adopt in the following sketch of the constitution and government of Makar.

The preamble began with setting forth that all governments were more or less usurpations

upon the rights and liberties of mankind, inas-
 much as an education which instilled into the
 minds of men the perpetual practice of jus-
 tice and truth would speedily annihilate the ne-
 cessity of such regulations. Government there-
 fore was manifestly an evil; but as in the ex-
 isting circumstances of the country, owing to
 the corruption every where dispersed from an-
 cient institutions, this evil is become absolutely
 necessary, the committee have with pleasure
 sat down to accomplish according to the best
 of their abilities the task imposed upon them:
 at the same time they declare that it is their
 earnest hope, founded upon the perfectibility*
 of man, that such necessity will gradually di-
 minish; and in order to accelerate so desirable
 an object, they have inserted a clause in the
 constitution relative to periodical reformation.
 This they flatter themselves will the more rea-
 dily meet the approbation of the house, when
 it takes into its consideration that the want of

* "There is no characteristic of man which seems, at
 present at least, so eminently to distinguish him, or to
 be of so much importance in every branch of moral
 science, as his perfectibility."—GODWIN. Political Jus-
 tice. Book I. Chap. vi.

such a species of censorship has been the chief cause of the abuses of government in general.

The preamble next proceeded to state the various evils attendant as well upon monarchical and aristocratical institutions as upon those of pure democracy, and it was therefore to keep clear of those evils that it had been decreed that the Makarian government was a representative republic founded on the inalienable and inalienable rights of man.



CHAP. XXII.

THE first article was, that the kingdom should be divided into districts, and that every male who had attained the age of twenty-four years should be entitled to vote at elections.

2. That every two thousand of such males should return one member to the house of representatives.

3. That every person be eligible to such office who had resided six months in the district for which he might be chosen, previous to the day of election.

4. That every person who is elected be compelled to serve; no regard being had to such person's inclination.*

* Το αὐτὸν αἰεῖσθαι τὸν ἀξιωθησόμενον τῆς ἀρχῆς, οὐκ ὀρθῶς ἐχει. δεῖ γὰρ καὶ βουλομένον καὶ μὴ βουλομένον ἀρχεῖν τὸν ἀξίον τῆς ἀρχῆς.—ARISTOT. Polit. Lib. ii.

It is not right that any man who shall be deemed worthy of being a magistrate should canvass for the office; for such a one ought to serve whether willing or not.

That the house of representatives never cease to exist.

6. That one third part of the house be renewed annually.

7. That the resigning members be debarred sitting again in the house for the space of three years.*

* Εν μὲν οὖν ταῖς πολιτικαῖς ἀρχαῖς ταῖς πλεισταῖς μεταβάλλει το ἀρχὸν καὶ τὸ ἀρχομένον· ἐξ ἴσου γὰρ εἶναι βουλεῖται τὴν φύσιν καὶ διαφέρειν μὴδεν.—ARISTOT. Polit. Lib. i.

In most civil governments the rulers and ruled change places, for men are by nature equal.

The reader perhaps will not be displeased with the following translation of another passage from Aristotle.

Wherefore in civil governments, which are founded upon the equality of the citizens, it is deemed right that every man should take his turn to govern. Formerly indeed, as was natural, it was thought just to serve the public by turns, that each man, by having himself first contributed to the welfare of others, might expect to reap a reciprocal benefit from them. *But now, on account of the emoluments deriving from the administration of public affairs, men are desirous of continuing in power*; as if it happened that those who are diseased become sound by being in office, in which case indeed there might be some reason for their so eagerly canvassing for magistracy.—Polit. Lib. iii. Cap. vi.

8. That after the lapse of every ten years the people do elect delegates from the several districts, for the sole purpose of inquiring into the abuses that may have crept into the laws or constitution, and pointing out their remedy.*

9. That such delegates be chosen in the same manner as the representatives.

* The necessity of a periodical reformation of the various evils that prevail more or less in all human institutions is evident to every well informed mind; but different men have proposed different remedies. I beg leave to instance the following one of Mr. Locke, in his Laws of Carolina.

LXXIX. "To avoid multiplicity of laws, *which by degrees always change the right foundations of the original government*, all acts of parliament whatsoever, in whatsoever form passed or enacted, shall *at the end of an hundred years after their enacting, respectively cease and determine of themselves, and without any repeal become null and void*, as if no such acts or laws had ever been made."

If reason had been allowed her due share in the formation of political constitutions, there would no doubt have existed some such regulation as the above in all the governments of the world. What can be more unwise in itself, or injurious to the happiness of nations, than the acting upon laws that passed centuries before? Is

10. That the ministers of the executive, be chosen by the legislative authority, to which they are to be responsible.

11. That the government has no right to interfere in matters of religion.

12. That every religion be admitted.

man to prescribe to his fellow-man the bounds of his intellectual improvement? Is one man to make another's ignorance the stepping-block to his own elevation? Or are we to cut the misletoe and worship the Pope for ever? Reason, truth, and philosophy say no; and shall we sacrifice the dictates of reason, truth, and philosophy at the shrine of hobgoblins and chimeras? Let us for once be wise; let us apply the knife to our own wounds before they become gangrenes and mortifications. Time was; time is; but time will soon be passed. "Mere words!" cries the objector, we are actually in a state of improvement; we do not worship the Pope; we do not cut the misletoe." Look at the misery and wretchedness that crowd the streets of our metropolis, and ask your conscience whether such a state deserves the appellation of improvement? Search for the laws that tend to pluck up this growing evil by the roots. Do you not venerate Old Sarum? Do you not religiously adhere to the remnants of feudal rights? And is not the nation disgraced by test laws and corporation acts? Above all, an honest man's heart must bleed when he peruses the penal code of what once was Britain. But not to

13. That oaths be abolished.

14. It appearing to the committee that all laws were more or less infringements upon the rights of man, they recommended a reduction of the existing code to such a number of laws only as may be deemed after a strict investiga-

wander too far, let us hear what Mr. Locke says upon the present subject.

“ Things of this world are in so constant a flux, that nothing remains long in the same state. Thus people, riches, trade, power, change their stations, flourishing mighty cities come to ruin, and prove in time neglected desolate corners, whilst other unfrequented places grow into populous countries, filled with wealth and inhabitants. But things not always changing equally, and private interest often keeping up customs and privileges, when the reasons of them are ceased; it often comes to pass, that in governments, where part of the legislative consists of representatives chosen by the people, that in tract of time this representation becomes very unequal and disproportionate to the reasons it was at first established upon. To what gross absurdities the following of custom, when reason has left it, may lead, we may be satisfied when we see the bare name of a town, of which there remains not so much as the ruins, where scarce so much housing as a sheepcote, or more inhabitants than a shepherd is to be found, sends as many representatives to the grand

tion absolutely necessary to the well-being of the country in its present circumstances: they further recommended that these laws should be simplified, or rather reduced to such a form as to be perspicuous to the meanest capacity.

15. That previous to the enacting of any law it should undergo three distinct discussions in the house, with at least six days interval between each discussion.

16. That a majority of at least two thirds of the house be necessary to the enacting of any law.

17. That the mode of Trial by Jury be

assembly of law-makers, as a whole country numerous in people, and powerful in riches. This strangers stand amazed at, and every one must confess needs a remedy; though most think it hard to find one; because the constitution of the legislative being the original and supreme act of the society, antecedent to all positive laws in it, and depending wholly on the people, no inferior power can alter it. And therefore the people, when the legislative is once constituted, having in such a government as we have been speaking of, no power to act as long as the government stands; this inconvenience is thought incapable of a remedy."

LOCKE on Civil Government. Chap. xiii.

adopted, that is, every jury is to consist of fifteen members, three of whom may in all cases acquit the prisoner.

18. That the present penal code be abolished, and the greatest punishment in future be imprisonment.*

* The inutility of capital punishment is fully proved, especially in our own country, by the frequency of its occurrence. This circumstance alone ought to have induced legislators, and have indeed induced some to discontinue it. In addition to the inutility, what can be more unwise? There can be no doubt that many an individual is sent out of the world, for the commission perhaps of a *single crime*, to which he may have been urged by the pressing calls of a starving family, who might by proper instruction have been restored to society an useful and valuable member. But what shall we say to the wickedness and impiety of such a practice? Legislators endeavour to inculcate into nations a belief of the *benevolence* of the Deity; let us see how far their own benevolence extends. When a fellow creature has committed a crime, do they endeavour to make him sensible of the injustice of his conduct? Are they eager after his amendment? No! their benevolent hearts teach them only to get rid of him. In short, there can be no doubt in the mind of an upright man, that we have no right to take away the life of another except in self-defence.

19. That every accused person be supposed innocent until he be convicted of guilt.

20. That the accused be brought to trial as soon after the supposed commission of a crime as possible.

21. That for this purpose there be resident judges in every large town in the kingdom.

22. That primogeniture laws and laws of entail from henceforth cease; for it appears to the committee that, exclusive of the injustice of these systems to the younger branches of the same family, they engender poverty in the lower classes of the people, and poverty is frequently the cause of sedition and crimes.*

* I cannot forbear remarking that these laws of primogeniture and entail are to be ranked among the causes of the decrease of population in the countries in which they are established. Aristotle has observed that a state will considerably increase in population where the property is more equally distributed; and the observation is just. The lesser the portions into which land is divided, the better will that land be cultivated, and consequently the greater number of inhabitants will it maintain. Upon this ground it is much to be wished that those men who inherit a vast landed property would divide that property into as small farms as pos-

23. That the property of every man who dies intestate be divided equally among his children.

24. Great evils arising from the ignorance of the people, it is earnestly recommended to the house, to give all due encouragement to literature and science; and that all sciences be freed from abstruse terms which are now the clog to education.*

sible. In the following observation of Dr. Franklin there appears to me to be truth blended with falsehood. He observes that "people increase in proportion to the number of marriages, and that is greater in proportion to the ease and convenience of supporting a family. When families can be easily supported more persons marry, and earlier in life." I say that there is truth blended with falsehood in this observation; for in my opinion the population of a country does not increase in proportion to the number of marriages; its increase depends solely upon the facility of procuring the necessaries of life: where these are difficult of attainment let marriages be never so frequent the offspring of such marriages will be cut off in the bud for want of proper nutriment. This evidently is one of the causes of the decrease of population in large cities. But I willingly refer the reader to Dr. Franklin's observations upon the peopling of countries.

* What is the reason that sciences are so difficult of attainment? One of the reasons is because they are in-

25. That every valuable foreign work be translated into the Makar tongue.

26. In order still more to further the progress of philosophy, the committee most seriously recommend the establishment of an universal language; and it appears to the committee that the easiest way of bringing about so desirable an object is, to appoint or cause to be appointed schools in every town or village where the Makarian government has influence, for the sole purpose of teaching the children of such town or village the Makar language with their own.*

veloped in a mass of unintelligible names. If in lieu of the Greek, Latin, and fanciful appellations with which Astronomy, Anatomy, Botany, Chemistry, &c. are at present surrounded (and which constitute as it were a monopoly of those sciences to the Grecian and Roman) they were illustrated by plain English terms that convey meaning, to how much greater perfection would these sciences speedily arrive?

* Upon this subject it is needless to enlarge. The proof of its practicability is in our own possession. Both in Wales and Scotland the children are brought up to speak the English language with their native tongue; and if the nations of Europe were in the same manner to be instructed in the French language,

27. That marriage be considered as a civil right, and that the mere consent of a man and woman before three witnesses do constitute marriage.

28. That the parties be disunited by mutual consent of half a year's continuance.

29. That the liberty of the press be unbounded.

30. That with respect to other nations the Makar government will neither interfere with them, nor suffer them to interfere with it.

31. The committee, fully convinced that it is the duty of legislators to consult the interest of the people, and that where that interest is not consulted no government can long stand, have endeavoured to the best of their power to perform that duty in the above plan: at the same time they earnestly request the house carefully and thoroughly to investigate every clause of it, as by so doing they can only secure what ought to be the end of all governments, the happiness and prosperity of the people.

Thus, Planetes, have I given you a rough the work is done; an universal language, as far as regards Europe, is at once established.

sketch of our constitution, nor have I thought it necessary to enter into a more minute detail, which you may learn with more advantage by observing its effects upon the manners of the people.



CHAP. XXIII.

EUTHUS having concluded, I returned him my sincerest thanks for the knowledge with which he had enriched my mind. But there remain two things, Euthus, which you have not yet explained. The first is, how the war ended ? and the second, what became of that enormous load of debt and taxes with which the nation was oppressed ? The war, replied Euthus, ended without difficulty ; our enemies were as desirous of peace as ourselves, and every thing was restored to the footing on which it stood previous to the war. With regard to the national debt ; the people were with great difficulty restrained from cutting it off at one blow ; but the immensity of the evil that was likely to ensue from such a rash proceeding, determined me strenuously to oppose it. I at length succeeded, and it was agreed that the interest of

the debt should diminish a fortieth part every year; this was easily effected, and we have now few, very few taxes remaining. These are chiefly employed in improving the roads, canals, bridges, wharfs, public buildings, &c.; in bringing to perfection any expensive invention of individuals; and in succouring oppressed neighbouring states, &c. &c. I could heartily wish, said I, to fix my residence among so contented and prosperous a people, but there is a something, Euthus, that calls me back to my country with all its imperfections. Imperfections! replied Euthus, it would be cowardice indeed to forsake your country because of its imperfections. An honest man would rather hasten his return in order to exert his utmost endeavours to amend them before they bring on a revolution. Believe me, Planetes, the tree of your constitution is well adapted to your soil; it is sound at heart; and though two or three of its best branches have been lopt off by some desperate and wicked hands, yet I perceive that vital principle in the root, which will cause them to spring out afresh, and blossom for ever. Yes, Planetes, in all probability you

have some statesman among you, who knows what is right, and dares to practise it ; make haste to enlist under his banners ; calamity will teach the people to know his worth, and peace will shower down upon you the blessings of content. Alas ! Euthus, my efforts are but feeble and the corruptions are strong. No efforts, Planetes, are feeble that have truth to support them. Shew the people the advantage and necessity of a well-timed reformation, and when they have once raised their voice, no minister can long withstand it : if, on the contrary, they suffer themselves to be duped, and the corruptions perpetually to increase, there can be no doubt that a revolution will, sooner or later, be the inevitable consequence. And if ever such a calamitous event should take place, may it be attended with no worse consequences than those which attended the revolution of Markar.

Here Euthus took his leave, and his last words made so deep an impression upon my mind, that I thought I should be deficient in duty to my country if I did not immediately

accelerate my departure to communicate what I had seen and heard. Fired with this idea I instantly went to Othono to beg his assistance in procuring a vessel to carry me to some settlement of Europeans, whence I might procure a passage to my native soil. He expressed his deep regret at my resolution of leaving him, and intreated me to return to Makar at some future period, observing that I had yet much to learn respecting their manners and customs. I replied that if I found that my countrymen profitted by the knowledge which I had already obtained I would with pleasure repeat my visit. At the same time I told him that his great kindness and attention to me would ever be had in remembrance to the last day of my existence. He engaged to procure me a vessel as soon as possible, and insisted upon accompanying me to whatever settlement I chose to fix upon. Finding it in vain to resist his determination, I complied. And now, Planetes, while things are getting ready for your departure, let me intreat you to bear me company to my house in the country; it is but thirty miles distant, and I will not detain you above

a week. I replied that I should accompany him with much pleasure; and this I did the more readily as his family had been gone some days before, and taken Lawrence with them. Accordingly next morning we mounted on horseback, and proceeded on our journey,



CHAP. XXIV.

NEVER was a country more populous, or so richly cloathed; not a spot of ground was to be seen uncultivated. The first fifteen miles were almost one continued garden of olives, vines, and corn, interspersed with innumerable farms and villages. Contentment smiled upon every face we met, and beggary and poverty were unseen. Good God! exclaimed I, how is all this possible? I surely am dreaming, and this is Paradise. You may well be surprised, returned Othono, this was not so formerly. My father, who died about ten years ago, used frequently to tell me, that all this country which we have now passed was, when he was a young man, in the possession of five or six petty Schums*, and its chief inhabitants were, the poor half-

* These answer to our great lords.

starved families of hard-working labourers, and about a dozen rich over-grown farmers. A great part of the land lay either desolate or only half tilled, or was laid out into extensive parks, beautiful indeed to the eye, but useful only to the few ; it is now, as you see, divided into thousands of small freeholds and supports millions. As we proceeded, my attention was arrested by some inclosures that I perceived at a little distance from the road, which from several spots of earth newly turned up, and a few upright stones scattered here and there, I imagined to be burying-grounds. True, said Othono, they are the burying-grounds belonging to Euthus-town, so called from my worthy friend, where we shall soon arrive, and the few upright stones that you see, are the remains of the old superstitious practice of monuments, which some people cannot yet forsake. The Makarians think it unwholesome to bury their dead in towns amongst the living, and therefore carry the bodies to a distance. Your having mentioned superstition, Othono, brings to my remembrance a question that I have for a long time been desirous of asking you. Pray, what is the religion that chiefly prevails among

the Makarians? Every kind of religion, Planetes, being admissible, you may readily suppose that various opinions are held among us. Some men for instance believe in the existence of two Gods, others in that of three Gods and a Goddess, and there are some who believe in two Gods and a half; but all these opinions are in their wane, and the prevalent belief is that there exists only one Supreme, whose nature is totally unknown to men, and from whom are supposed to be derived the primary laws which direct and regulate the universe. It is believed that prayers, sacrifices, offerings, and supplications are of no avail, and that the only road to happiness is, to practise justice and benevolence to our fellow-creatures. And have you, said I, no priests nor bishops? No! thank truth! replied Othono, nor creeds, nor collects. The Makarians are too wise to hamper their intellectual faculties by such clogs. Why surely you must perceive, Planetes, that religion, like all other things, has hitherto been perpetually varying; and to what cause can you attribute such variation, but to synods, and state politics? where the interference of these is an-

nihilated, religion will soon find its proper station. But priests and bishops are not the only beings whose political existence is destroyed. That arch-enemy of freedom, and friend of usurpation and aristocracy, the political Schum of evil, Oonnanoo, finding no support in a government founded on the rights of man, has abdicated his throne for ever.

As the discourse now began to grow unpleasant I was not a little rejoiced that Euthus-town appeared in view. It was market-day when we entered; and if I was pleased with the cleanliness and regularity with which every thing was conducted, I was quite charmed with the honesty and integrity of the people. No one demanded either more or less for his goods than their just value, nor was a man to be found that would receive two-pence for a dozen of yams when they were worth only one penny. Surely, said I, things are not always thus; you must undoubtedly, Othono, have some examples among you of dishonesty and injustice. Dishonesty and injustice, Planetes, are looked upon as wonders, and I do not sup-

pose that there are ten instances to be found in the whole nation of vicious or depraved persons. We have prisons, it is true, but they are empty. Among a people that are taught from their infancy to love and practise truth, where do you think dishonesty can rest herself? If any man were so unprincipled as to commit an act of injustice, he would meet with a monitor in every person he saw; and if he were not altogether dead to a sense of shame, he must either instantly reform or quit the country.* Just heaven! said I, and is human nature capable of such perfection? Capable! Planetes, abolish unjust and oppressive laws, leave mankind to them-

* " In the mean time all necessity for causing the punishment of the crime to pursue the criminal, would soon at least cease, if it ever existed. The motives to offence would become rare: its aggravations few: and rigour superfluous. The principal object of punishment is, restraint upon a dangerous member of the community; and the end of this restraint would be answered, by the *general inspection* that is exercised by the members of a limited circle over the conduct of each other," &c.—GODWIN. Book V. Chap. xxii.

selves and virtue, and the work is half done. *

" * Men are weak at present, because they have always been told that they are weak, and must not be trusted with themselves. Take them out of their shackles ; bid them inquire, reason, and judge ; and you will soon find them very different beings."

GOPWIN. Book VII. Chap. viii.



CHAP. XXV.

HAVING refreshed ourselves and cattle at Euthus-town, we proceeded on our journey, and in the evening arrived at Aschol farm. Nothing could exceed the delightfulness of the situation, or the proofs of industry that prevailed around it. The house stood upon a gently rising ground embosomed in woods and olive-grounds, having in front a small meandering stream, which emptied itself into a navigable river about a mile below. The surrounding country was picturesque, being on every side diversified with hill and dale in high cultivation; there was indeed no regular town or village to be seen, but innumerable cottages were scattered up and down, in one view appearing upon the brow of a hill, in another just peeping from the woods. We were received with welcome by our amiable friends, and as soon as the first salutations were over,

Othono addressed Clarina by saying ; I have great need of your assistance, our friend Planetes purposes to leave us in about ten days, try whether your oratory will prevail upon him to prolong his visit. I hope, replied Clarina, that Planetes is convinced that his company increases our happiness. I return you thanks, Clarina, and could with pleasure live and die among you ; virtue indeed seems banished from the rest of the world, and has taken up her abode among the inhabitants of Makar ; but Othono knows my reasons for returning to my native country. Well, well ; said Othono, as you have promised upon certain conditions to return I will not press my suit. Lawrence all this while was remarkably dejected ; nor could I then conjecture the reason, but the next morning upon his entering my room with a sorrowful aspect, Well, said I, Lawrence, what is the matter ? you do not seem much pleased with the thoughts of returning to your country. No indeed, Captain ; a man's country in my mind is where he can live most happily, and to say truth, I could wish to remain here among the Makarians ; they are the most frank and honest people I have ever met with ; during

the whole time of my residence among them, I have not seen a single instance of dishonesty, nor heard an untruth. Besides, Sir, they have no taxes nor press-gangs, and provisions of all sorts are not above one third the price that they are in England. At the same time, Captain, I am under so many obligations to you, that rather than incur your displeasure, I am ready to follow you to the world's end. Thank you, Lawrence, but if I can contribute in the least to your happiness, I will do it with pleasure, and therefore you have my free consent to remain at Makar. But there are two things which you ought to consider before you determine. One is, whether your friends and relations in England will not be made unhappy by your separation? and the other is, whether such a proposal will be acceptable to Othono, as I conceive that you must in some measure live upon his bounty? As to my friends, Captain, except yourself, I have but one friend in the world who has shewn any great attention to me, and he was pressed on board of a man of war just as he returned from the East Indies; and I understand that it almost broke the poor fellows heart, more, I believe, on account of

his wife and family than himself; so that where he is now I know not. As to relations, I have none living. Respecting the second question, I am not at all uneasy, for upon mentioning my determination to Othono's son, and telling him that I could be useful in the seafaring line, he seemed much pleased, and promised to make me captain of one of his own vessels. And now, continued Lawrence, I have one request to make to you. You have hitherto, Captain, been my friend, and I hope will continue so. Here the poor fellow's courage failed him, and he appeared confused. I am, and will be your friend, Lawrence; pray take courage and speak your mind freely. Why then, Captain, I have taken a great fancy to Miss Othono, and as I have reason to believe she is not displeased with me, I wish to have your consent to the match. Truly, Lawrence, this is a matter quite unexpected, and requires serious consideration. I do not know how such a proposal may be relished by my hospitable friend. He knows very little of you, and is a man of considerable property and connections, whereas you are here a total stranger without house or home. This is all very true, Captain,

but Clarina tells me, that if I can obtain your consent, there is no doubt of getting Othono's, for the Makarians in marrying their children think neither of connections, nor property, they study only to make them happy. This conversation made me very reserved during breakfast, and Othono, I thought, was not in such spirits as usual. Breakfast being finished, Othono asked me if I were inclined to take a walk? to this I readily assented.



 CHAP. XXVI.

OTHONO began the conversation by informing me of Lawrence's proposal, and desire of remaining in this country; that with regard to himself, he could not have the smallest objection to any match in which his daughter's happiness was concerned, but had refrained from giving his consent, lest he should deprive his guest of a companion and friend. If that be all, said I, objections may cease; my only fear was on account of the wide difference between you in respect to fortune and connections: Lawrence, though he has a good heart and a sound intellect, yet is without friends or property, whereas you—I wish, replied Othono, with a smile, that Euthus was here; he would instantly exclaim; This young man cannot unlearn his errors, he thinks himself still in a country where the happiness of man is second to wealth. Indeed, Planetes, you must judge

more favourably of the Makarians; they consider two things only of importance, namely, the happiness of others, and the improvement of their intellect. As to property, there are few, very few individuals in the kingdom that have any considerable share of it; nor is it possible to be otherwise, for every man's fortune is, generally speaking, divided equally among his children. I say generally speaking, because where a father has several children, and one may be married and have a large family, another may be engaged in an expensive business, &c. he will perhaps enlarge this or that one's portion accordingly; and if a father were so unjust as to bequeath all his property to one child in prejudice to the rest, a jury would immediately set aside the will. Thus two or three generations must disperse the largest property in the kingdom. Perhaps, Planetes, you may have observed that I am myself one of the exceptions to this rule. True! the merchants in general are the men who possess the greatest wealth; and the expence of ship-building, and risk of trade will in some measure justify the accumulation of property, though even this for several reasons is on the decline. In short, my

friend, I consider myself as holding my property only upon trust, and therefore the more useful I am to others, the happier shall I be. And is this, Othono, a principle that pervades the chief part of your nation? Undoubtedly it is. The generality of men divide their time between labour and study,* and therefore having no occasion for the superfluities of life, seek only where to bestow them with the greatest utility. Happy people! said I, Lawrence has chosen an enviable lot. But from your mentioning the riches of your merchants, Othono, I presume that your commerce is widely diffused. Certainly, said he, like the pebble in the lake, we endeavour to spread the circles of our own happiness to as great an extent as possible. Nor is it unjust to seek a return. If we abound in any commodity useful to man-

* The situation which the wise man would desire for himself, and for those in whose welfare he was interested, would be a situation of alternate labour and relaxation, labour that should not exhaust the frame, and relaxation that was in no danger of degenerating into indolence. Thus industry and activity would be cherished, the frame preserved in a healthful tone, and the mind accustomed to meditation and reflection.

GODWIN. Book V. Chap. xiii.

kind, iron for instance, and another nation has a like surplus of some other such commodity, suppose wool; is it not natural and just that we should exchange our iron for their wool? nor is this all; commerce is of greater advantage to mankind than the opposers of commerce are aware of. The sciences of navigation and astronomy are advanced by commerce. The happiness of man in a moral view is likewise increased thereby, inasmuch as the laws, manners, customs, and improvements of nations, are thus made known to each other: the less civilized therefore may reap advantage from the more advanced in civilization. I am fully sensible, replied I, of the benefits deriving from commerce; but do you meet with no interruption, no obstacle in the pursuit of it? Explain yourself, Planetes, I really do not comprehend you. Why, have you no foes, no turbulent nation near you, who occasionally injure your trade by the calamities of war? Here I plainly perceived that Othono could scarce refrain from laughing. Surely, my friend, said he, you are not serious; or if you are, you talk so much after the fashion of the old school that I really am at some loss how to answer

you. Can you for a single moment suppose it possible that any people can be so completely insane, as to make war upon a nation, the most populous in the world, united to a man among themselves, and enthusiastically partial to their laws, their liberties, and their rights? But granting for the sake of argument the possibility, I am ignorant how we should treat them. Some of us probably might commiserate them, and endeavour to give them instruction. Others would advise correction, after the old manner of correcting school-boys, and that being completed, would send them home to their masters with a lecture in the horn-book of truth and liberty; this in all probability would be of more powerful operation than the sword. On the side of offensive war, it is almost needless for me to say a word. The great principle among the Makarians is to do all the good they can; to stop the progress of wars and slaughter, and root them from the face of the earth; to disseminate the principles of universal philanthropy, to shew men that they are brethren, that they are all citizens of the world; improbable then in the highest degree is it that such a nation should be the first to commit injustice.

Wars originate in the sway which the few have over the many by the influence of accumulated property over accumulated misery.* Wars then can have no place among a nation where misery is unknown, and where accumulated property is perpetually diminishing, is perpetually breaking out into diverse channels. Believe me, Planetes, there is no man among the Makarians rich or powerful enough to force others to join him in such measures, and rest assured that no man is fool enough, or base enough, to follow him of his own accord. We are happy, we are contented, we are free; what have we more to desire? And are these sentiments, Othono, disseminated among the whole people? Unquestionably they are, Planetes, not a child of twelve years old is ignorant of them. Good God! said I, how various are

* It is only by means of accumulation that one man obtains an unresisted sway over multitudes of others. If Europe were at present covered with inhabitants, all of them possessing competence, and none of them superfluity, what could induce its different countries to engage in hostility? It is property that forms men into one common mass, and makes them fit to be played upon like a brute machine. GODWIN. Book VIII. Chap. ii.

the manners and customs of nations ! As soon as I publish what I have now learnt in my native country, I shall be branded with the titles of visionary, and theorist, a disturber of the public peace, a jacobin, a democrat, and I know not what ; perhaps I may be sent to a lunatic hospital, and ranked among the incurables. How much, Othono, do I wish to remain among you ! How enviable is the lot of Lawrence !



CHAP. XXVII.

WE were now arrived within sight of the house, and Lawrence came out to inform us that dinner had been waiting for a considerable time. His countenance shewed strong marks of hope, fear, and anxiety, but, upon my communicating to him the joyful intelligence that he had both mine and Othono's free consent to the match, and entire approbation of his continuance at Makar, they were succeeded by a flood of tears that choked his utterance. We gave him no time to recover, but hastened into the house where we found the family just sitting down to their frugal table. Indeed the Makarians are almost total strangers to luxury; they are plain and simple in their diet, living chiefly upon the various fruits of the earth, and eating very little animal food, and even this little is for the most part consumed in soups. Dinner being finished, Othono informed Cla-

rina and his daughter of the subject and event of our morning's conversation, and for my part, I never received so much real pleasure as from the happiness which I had been instrumental in communicating to this amiable family. It was settled that I should be present at the nuptial ceremony, and that it should take place on the morning of my departure.

During this interval I employed my time chiefly in augmenting my stock of knowledge by a strict attention to the manners of the people. What principally struck and delighted me was, that love of truth and sincerity so conspicuous among them. The English proverb, that truth is not to be spoken at all times, found no receptacle there. If a man did wrong, he was sure to be told of it. Riches afforded no shelter to error. The Makarian, being grounded in the principles of true equality, knows and feels that he is a man speaking to a man; he therefore banishes all superstitious awe and reverence towards a fellow-creature.*

* He that cannot speak to the proudest despot with a consciousness that he is a man speaking to a man, and a determination to yield him no superiority to which his

In conversation they accost each other either by their simple name, or by the distinction of friend. In their epistolary correspondence, Grecian simplicity prevails, nothing more is superscribed than, "Othono to Euthus," or "Euthus to Othono." There is no hypocrisy, no "most obedient, most respectful, most devoted humble servant." In their literary works you will find no superfluous argument, and much less of the flowers of rhetorick, as they are called, than might have been expected. Plain simple facts, and energetic reasoning are their predominant features. I am sure my countrymen will be overjoyed to hear that some of their best works are comprized in one or

inherent qualifications do not entitle him, is wholly incapable of sublime virtue.—GODWIN. B. V. Chap. vi.

Every man ought to feel his independence, that he can assert the principles of justice and truth, without being obliged treacherously to adapt them to the peculiarities of his situation, and the errors of others.

Ib. B. VIII. Chap. vi.

It is a ridiculous education that does not qualify a man to make his best appearance before the greatest man and the finest woman to whom he can address himself.

SPECTATOR. 484.

two octavo volumes. Nay, I have frequently seen a small duodecimo that would have put Hoadly to the blush.

From their manner of life the people are cheerful and healthy, and very eager to improve their intellectual faculties. I have already mentioned the extreme facility with which the various arts and sciences are there acquired by being stripped of the abstruse terms in which they were formerly enveloped. Every bone for instance in anatomy is called by some name that conveys to the student a correspondent idea. It is almost incredible to those who are unacquainted with the immense injury done to science by preserving the unmeaning names given to it by its original cultivators, who lived perhaps in foreign countries, centuries ago, and whose language is now lost; I say it will appear almost incredible to them to be told, that a science which now seems extremely difficult of attainment, may in that case be acquired with great facility, in a very short time, and by the most trivial capacity.*

* The Greeks and Romans from whom most of our knowledge is derived, very naturally and wisely gave

Their women are chaste, handsome, and well educated. It is rare to see a woman of twenty years of age married, or one of thirty unmarried. They think that the fruit of too early appellations in their own tongue to their various improvements and discoveries. The greatest part of these appellations European nations religiously adhere to, so that the modern student is under the necessity of cultivating the Greek and Roman languages previous to his acquisition of this or that science. Nor is this all. Several of the original appellations being proved by subsequent discoveries to be absurd and fanciful, the student has to wade through additional difficulties to understand whence they originated. But the truth is, that arts and sciences are for the most part monopolized by a few, and innovation and reformation are Democratic Fiends who would bring "this our craft into danger." I am the more desirous of propagating this improvement of science, as the English language is peculiarly adapted to compound expressions, and I shall be much mistaken if words that convey appropriate meaning cannot be discovered for nineteen twentieths of every art or science. The inventors of the new chemical nomenclature seem to have done the reverse of what is here represented; they have given new appellations, but have increased the difficulty. A specimen of what is now alluded to will in all probability be soon presented to the public by a friend of the author.

marriages is debilitated. The mother, unless incapacitated by disease, never fails to suckle her child ; to do otherways would be deemed criminal, and she would be severely reprimanded for it by those around her. Adultery is unknown. If a man and wife are unhappy in each other's company, and are resolved to separate, they have no more to do than to signify in writing such resolution to the witnesses of their marriage, which, if such resolution remain in the mean time unaltered, is dissolved accordingly after a lapse of half a year. I mention this only as the law of the land, for it seldom takes place. A large family of children is supposed in England to be a misfortune ; a large family of children is supposed in Makar to be one of the greatest blessings : this, as I have already mentioned, is chiefly to be attributed to the facility of procuring the necessaries of life. I should here observe that it was once proposed in the house of representatives, that the institution of marriage should be abolished, and the intercourse of the sexes freely allowed : but the proposal was received with contempt. Among other reasons assigned for rejecting it, were the fol-

lowing. That in such case a man being ignorant of his own offspring, it was probable that such offspring would be little attended to, and certainly, comparatively speaking, would be badly educated. That it would deprave the morals of men, by giving encouragement to debauchery ; and that by so doing it would diminish population, in which the aggregate happiness of nations consists. That promiscuous connections would annihilate that domestic happiness now deriving from the matrimonial state. That such a proposal is useless, because the evil so much complained of, viz. being tied down for life to a partner of different habits and sentiments, is already obviated. Lastly, that if it be true that not only the fruit of too early connections is comparatively feeble, but that they tend to debilitate the parents themselves, and consequently to the degeneracy of the human race ; these are strong objections to the proposal being carried into execution.*

* Among the various customs of the Germans Cæsar relates, *Qui diutissimè impuberes remanserunt, maximam inter suos ferunt laudem: hoc ali staturam, ali hoc vires, nervosque confirmari putant. Intra an-*

The Makarians divide their year into seventy-three weeks, each containing five days, and their hours of the day commence at six o'clock in the morning, and the hours of the night at six in the evening: the old ridiculous custom of calling the depth of midnight one o'clock in the morning was abolished at the revolution.

I can assure the reader that this happy people know how to employ their time well. An idler or loungeur would be esteemed a prodigy; every man is engaged either in the improvement of his intellect, in the cultivation of the earth, in manufactures, or commerce. Gaming is unknown. I had once the curiosity to ask Othono's son, for I was afraid to put such a question to his father, whether his countrymen ever played at cards? Cards! said he, what are cards? Here, though I already began to repent of my foolish curiosity, I explained to him to the best of my power, what cards were. I told him that they were papers cut into an ob-

num vero vicissimum feminæ notitiam habuisse, in turpissimis habent rebus.—Bel. Gal. Lib. vi. Cap. 21.

Those who are inclined to see the arguments that are brought against the institution of marriage may read GODWIN. Book VIII. Chap. vi.

long form, and painted with certain figures; that they were much used in all the civilized parts of Europe, particularly by the fair sex, who usually meet together every evening during the winter, and not unfrequently during the summer months, to sit down for hours at play with them: to this I added that their chief use and design were to employ time agreeably and profitably. Believe me, said he, the Makarians have no such agreeable and profitable employment, and, whatever might be the opinion of other nations, they would esteem such things as the inventions of knaves for the use of fools.



CHAP. XXVIII.

THE day fixed for my departure being arrived, and the nuptial ceremony being completed by the parties giving their consent before three witnesses, I took a short leave of my happy friends, and immediately set out with Othono for Makar. We returned by way of the canal, on which we embarked about a mile below Aschol. The barges here are of small dimensions, the reason of which I found afterwards to be this: On account of a deficiency of water in the summer months, there are no locks upon this canal, but the barges are moved from one degree of elevation to another by means of inclined planes. Here however there is a considerable improvement upon the Chinese method. As soon as the barge arrives at the bottom of one of the planes, it is haled into a recess just large enough to receive it, in which recess is placed a very simple machine upon

four wheels that exactly fits the bottom of the barge ; the machine being well fixed, the barge becomes a sort of waggon, and is drawn up the plane by means of a capstan, a drag-chain is then applied to one of the wheels, and it descends gently into the lower canal.

Upon my arrival at Makar, Euthus immediately waited upon me. He observed that he came not to interrupt the preparations for my departure, for however he might regret my loss, he could not but applaud the motives that induced me to return ; he came only to take his leave, and to inquire whether there were any thing that he could do to serve me ? You have already, Euthus, done me the greatest of services, you have proved to me that the human race are capable of being made virtuous, peaceable, and happy, and the only addition that I can desire is, that you would inform me how to make my countrymen so. Every thing in season, said Euthus with a smile. Vice, wretchedness, and an inhuman thirst of warfare, seem to prevail among you at present. These evils are, I am afraid, of considerable extent, and for the last century appear to have been increasing with giant strides, you must

not therefore be so rash and imprudent as to attempt to extirpate them at once, for by so doing you will perhaps augment your misery. How then, Euthus, am I to act? am I to sit down in hopeless despair? By no means, Planetes; despair does not become a philosopher. Sow the seeds of justice and truth among your countrymen. Sow them deep. And the noisome weeds that now overspread the land, and seem to choke their growth, will be totally lost in that strength and energy with which they will in their due time vegetate into maturity. Farewell.

Farewell, returned I, thou friend of man. I will obey thy instructions, nor will I think that feeble, which is done with the best intention.



CHAP. XXIX.

EVERY thing being now in readiness, I embarked on board the ship that Othono had prepared for me. He insisted upon being my conductor to the Cape of Good Hope, to which I assented upon condition that if we met with any European vessel he would put me on board. About the distance of three weeks sail from the Cape, a Portuguese East Indiaman hove in sight. We very soon came up with her, as she was little better than a log upon the water. I instantly hailed her in the French tongue. This most unexpectedly threw her crew into great confusion, for we were so close as plainly to perceive the sailors crowding upon each other's shoulders down the hatches and gangways, while the few who remained upon deck were falling upon their knees. Poor Othono

was quite alarmed, having never seen the power of a few words so instantaneous in their operation. He began seriously to question me upon the cause of the tremour that prevailed among them. I told him that the Portuguese nation were much under the influence of superstition, and that the French nation, in whose language I had hailed them, had been represented to them by their priests as cannibals; which I apprehended to be the cause of their alarm. As soon as I came on board, and had dissipated their fears, they began to grow prodigiously courageous, singing pater-nosters, and chaunting hallelujahs. We found them much in want of water and biscuits, and indeed of most other necessities, for they had been out two months longer than they expected, and were one hundred leagues out of their reckoning. Having agreed with the commander for my passage, I bid my valued friend Othono adieu.

I did not remain long with the Portuguese, for within a fortnight's time they were again thrown into hysterics by the appear-

ance of two large frigates, these however proving to be English, I was taken on board, and landed without further adventure on British soil.

